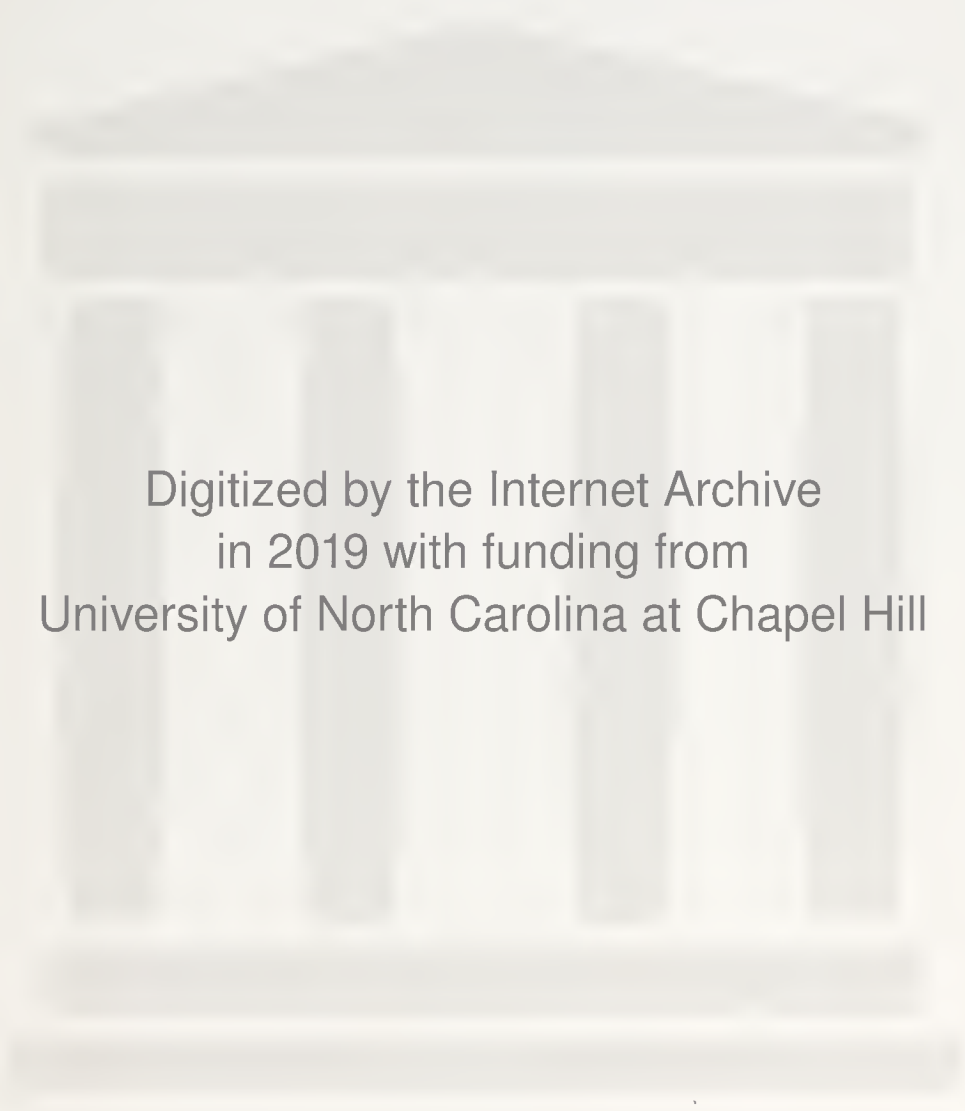


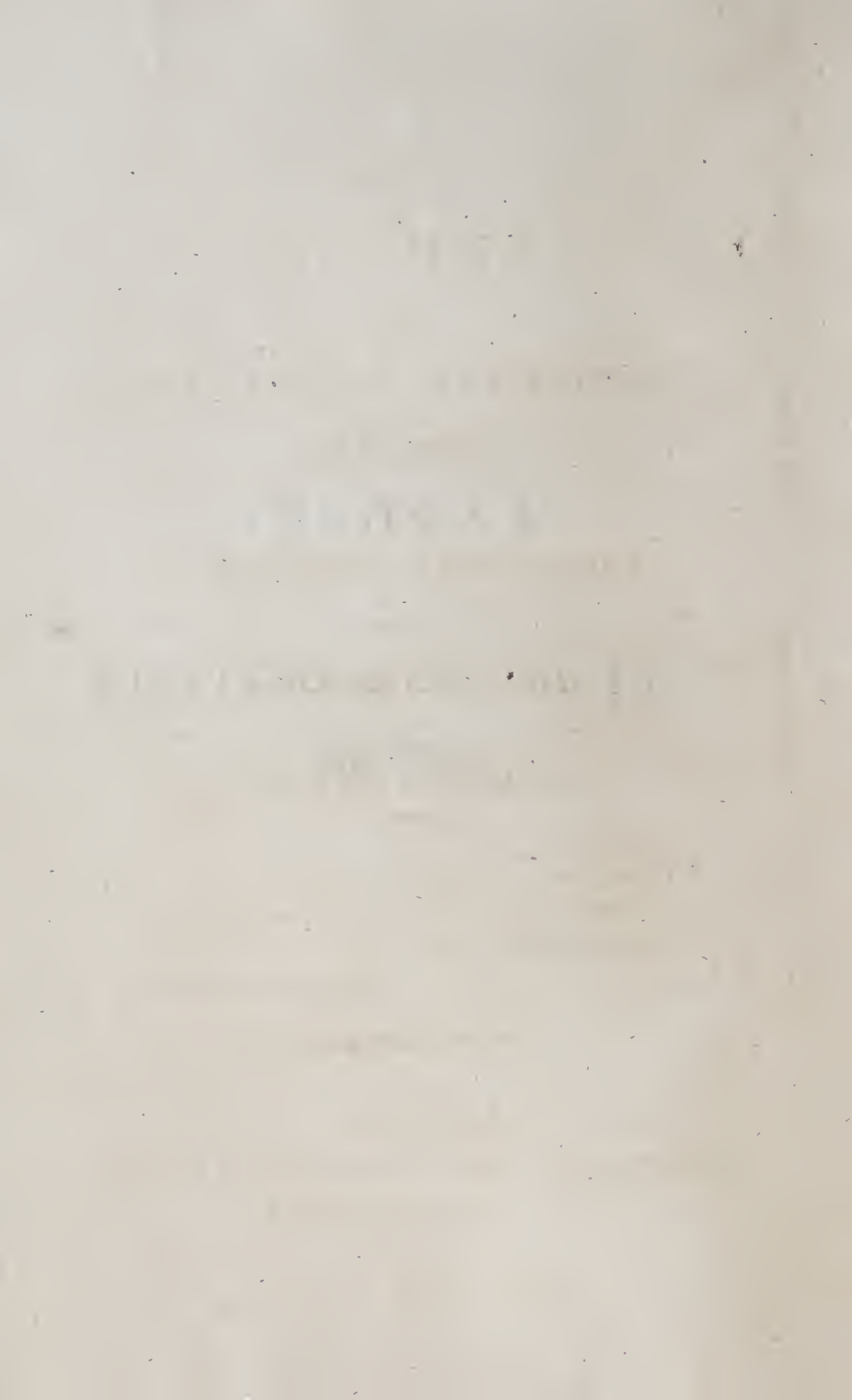


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THE
EXPOSÉ;
OR,
NAPOLÉONE BUONAPARTE
Unmasked.



THE
E X P O S É ;
OR,
NAPOLÉONE BUONAPARTE
Unmasked,
IN A
CONDENSED STATEMENT
OF HIS
Career and Atrocities.

ACCOMPANIED WITH NOTES, &c.

“ I would not be the villain.....

“ For the whole space that's in the Tyrant's grasp,

“ And the rich East to boot !”

SHAKSPEARE'S *Macbeth*.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR W. MILLER, ALBEMARLE STREET,

BY JAMES MOYES, SHOE LANE.

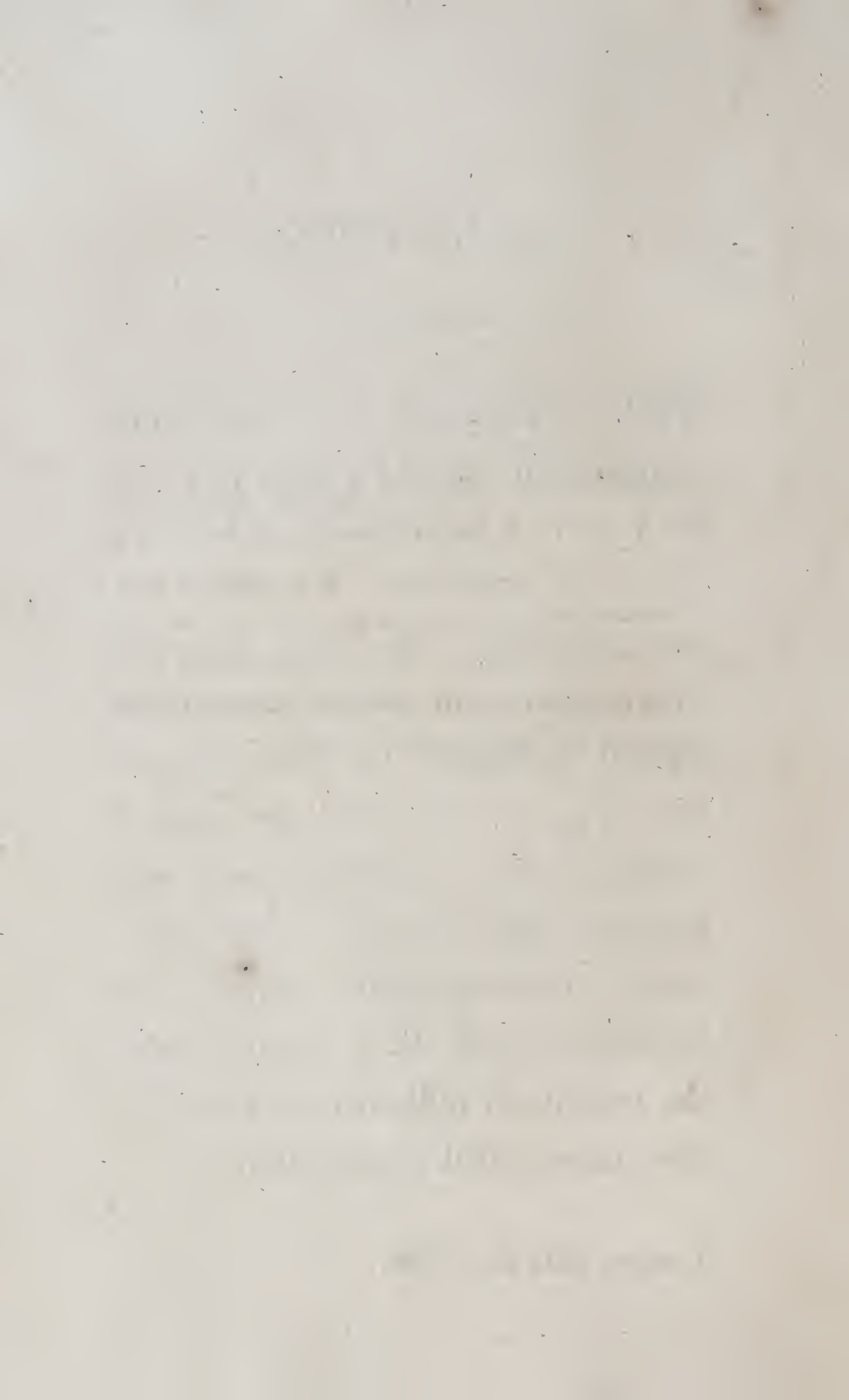
1809.



DEDICATION.

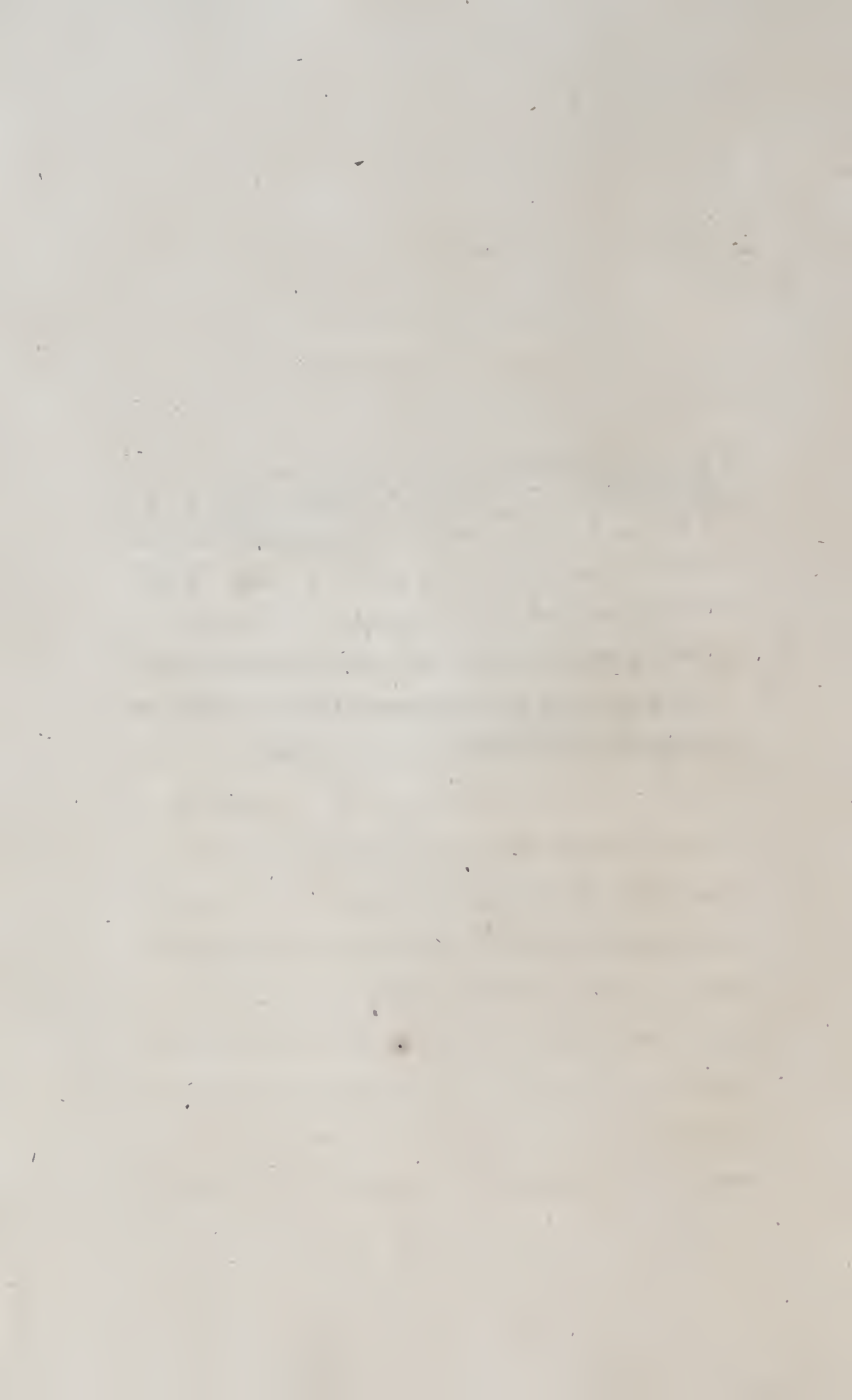
THIS Production is respectfully dedicated to the INHABITANTS of the UNITED KINGDOMS of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, from the full persuasion, that the contents, by contrast, will not only shed the highest brilliancy on their revered SOVEREIGN, who fills his exalted station with so much dignity and honour: but present, at the same time, an incontestable proof of the blessings which they enjoy, under the continued influence of their free and undisturbed constitution.

681145
London, 30th Jan. 1809.



“ Prose allows of painting in a moderate degree : for,
“ without lively descriptions, it is impossible to warm
“ the hearer’s fancy, or to stir the passions. A plain
“ narrative does not move people : we must not only
“ inform them of facts ; but strike their senses, by a
“ lively, moving representation of the manner and cir-
“ cumstances of the facts which we relate.”

FENELON.



ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS little performance was drawn up with the view, that at this important and auspicious period the public mind might be usefully called to a retrospect of the past.

But, in sending it from the press, no improper claim is preferred for originality. It presents itself simply as a compilation, new with respect to form, but not with regard to the principal matter; most of the events having been already described in the productions of different writers, and are now brought together, for greater convenience; accompanied by such remarks as naturally flowed from contemplating the subject. The introductory lines, which are by no means attempted to be raised into the consequence of verse, were, in the first instance, written at the

suggestion of the instant, though afterwards in some degree altered: the accompanying statement resulted from those lines having been written; and the whole was unpremeditated.

The statement, it will be observed, is not accomplished in exact chronological order; and the recorded facts are but a part only—a prominent one, indeed—of those atrocities which have been committed by the boasted hero of the time. They will exhibit, it is presumed, the temper of Buonaparte in its true light; and display, in a small compass, what have been the effects to individuals, as well as to nations, of his unfeeling conduct and unprincipled ambition.

The chief aim in the composition has been, to render the narrative concise, to occupy the mind but for a short time in the reading, yet to endeavour to leave an impression which might come home to the bosom of every one.

The Annual Register; state papers; the leading journals of the day; Buonaparte's pro-

ABC
No.

clamations; the intercepted letters from Egypt; the History of France, from the year 1790 to the peace concluded at Amiens in 1802, by Adolphus, (a sensible, nervous, and ingenious author, whose pen has invariably pursued the path of unimpeachable veracity); Burdon's impartial Life of Buonaparte, second edition; Don Pedro de Cevallos' recent Manifesto; as well as other documents from Spain and Portugal; have been consulted.

Among the memoirs of Buonaparte's career, there are several strongly tinged with a peculiar bias, which has led their authors to communicate a variety of extraordinary occurrences regarding him, as well as every branch of his family and connexions, of so singular a nature, that, from that circumstance, and from the manner also in which these performances have appeared, no particular reference could be well made to them; and, indeed, where their statements have not been confirmed by more acknow-

ledged authorities, (without meaning to question their authenticity), no assistance has been derived. The private intrigues of Buonaparte's court, and the petty history of individual profligacy, were never meant to form part of this more broad and general representation, which was not composed to amuse the mind, but to court the attention of the more serious reader.

From the nature of this work, it were in a manner impossible not to advert to the fluctuating state of France, and her unsettled plans, during the period of her revolution, prior to the elevation of Buonaparte; nor to withhold such reflections as were the natural result. These have been kept separate, under the form of notes, to prevent the thread of the main discourse from being broken in upon, and interrupting the rapidity with which it was meant to be pursued.


The reader has the power of turning to these notes either before or after his perusal of the

main body of the performance, as suits his inclination or judgment.

Should the writer have erred in any point, it has not been from design. His first resource, indeed, was in his own recollection. The events were too deeply engraven on his memory, to have been easily obliterated ; for, if he had any feeling for the happiness of his own country, or for the welfare of mankind, they could not have passed by him

“ Like a summer’s cloud,
“ Without his special wonder !”

It now only remains for him to add, that he has delivered his sentiments from a desire of doing good, not from any vain motive : and he offers them with that becoming respect, which is as far removed from presumption as from too great humility.



Napoleone Buonaparte

Unmasked :

PREFACED BY THESE

INTRODUCTORY LINES

ON

JOSEPH BUONAPARTE'S

PRINCELY VISIT TO SPAIN !

Which were written at the impulse of the moment, on his having quitted Naples, by the direction of his great and invincible brother, in order that he might be crowned king of Spain and the Indies, and subsequently flying from Madrid with the regalia and other purloined articles !

“ A vice of kings,
A cut-purse of the empire and the rule,
That from a shelf the precious diadem
Stole, and put it in his pocket.”

SHAKSPEARE.

JOSEPH ! why left you Naples ? turn'd to Spain ?
Was it to tell th' Iberians you would reign
Their mild and gracious monarch ? Gen'rous
soul !
How must they triumph 'neath thy kind controul !

How must the people you resign'd, deplore
Those royal virtues they must see no more!

But, base-born cut-purse of th' imperial rule!
The Spaniard ne'er will crouch before thy stool!
Commit a crime not ages could atone,
And servile bow to an usurper's throne.
No!—vagrant upstart of a blood-stain'd hour,—
Not all the weight of all Napoleone's pow'r,
His conquests, triumphs, murders, bribes, nor art,
Can ever sway the proud Castilian heart!
Make it forget itself, and own in thee
Aught but the sov'reign chief of perfidy!
Back to your haunts, marauders! die and rot!
Your race extinct, the age's scourge and blot!
France! rise like Spain! like her, be justly
brave!

Show who should wear *your* crown, *your* country
save!

Your ancient banners—fleur-de-lis—unfurl'd!
D'ENGHIEN revenge! and free the suff'ring
world!

COURTEOUS READER!

TO estimate rightly the character of JOSEPH BUONAPARTE, the *amiable* king of Naples, and *projected* king of Spain, it should be remembered, that he was the French ambassador at Rome, who in the pontificate of Pius VI. carried into execution the planned disturbance, under the cloak of the feast of liberty, which was to pave the way for the banishment of the pope, and the conquest, or rather subjugation, of Rome. —The death of General Duphot, brought about by his means, did effect it; and the mistress of the ancient world was again exposed to all the horrors which had attended the irruption of a Brennus or an Attila.—From this impression, and

with the intent to express a marked detestation of the continuance of an unwarrantable conduct extended to Spain, the writer was led to give publicity to this condensed statement of the life of NAPOLEONE BUONAPARTE, the prime mover of all the mischief, specifying the principal acts which have outraged humanity from the commencement of his career to the present hour.

The account he has preceded with what he hopes may be deemed an allowable anecdote; and he candidly requests, that his prefatory lines may be merely considered as the passport of introduction to the main subject.

A lecturer, who had taken for his theme the concise and energetic question, "What is *man*?" addressed his audience in this eccentric style of commencement, "I will tell you what man is!—man is a devil! But as I see," continued the speaker, "that the expression

does not please ye, it shall be softened,—he is a devil incarnate.” So, from a desire to satisfy those who may think that some of the expressions are too highly seasoned, they shall be attempted to be softened by this plain recitement of facts, drawn from the authentic records of the time.

NAPOLEONE BUONAPARTE; or, (as his own modest proclamations, and the proclamations of his diplomatic agents and generals, have announced him, in language such as they consider due to his extraordinary qualifications and manifold accomplishments), Napoleone, the hero! the conqueror!—the terrible! the dreadful! the invincible!—the magnificent!—the sacred! the august! the glorious!—the great pacificator!—the mild! the loving! the noble-minded!—the merciful!—the amiable! the generous! the gracious! the humane! the accomplished!—the excellent! the beneficent!—the omnipotent!

—renowned for taste, science, learning, and judgment! Duke! Prince! Protector! King! and Emperor! the wonder of the present age, a reflection on the past, and the example for the future! the chosen instrument of heaven, sent to ameliorate the condition of mankind! born only for its use, and who lives but to oblige it! this phenomenon, this phoenix risen from the ashes of the French revolution and republic! this Napoleone Buonaparte, who once styled himself *Brutus Buonaparte, citoyen sans culotte!*—breathed his first innocent air in Corsica!*

* In reverting to the first mode in which Napoleone Buonaparte spelt his name, it is mentioned, that that orthography has been adhered to from motives of propriety. Though Buonaparte, when in Egypt, chose to drop the final letter in Napoleone, and discard the second letter of his surname, to familiarize the sounds, and render them more closely analogous to the French idiom, he cannot, despotic as he may be, force every person to write them after the same way ;

Brought up from his infancy to the profession of arms, he received his early education at a military academy at Brienne, in France, (having been first sent to Autun); and from Brienne he was removed to the Royal Military Academy at Paris, supported by the bounty of that king, whom, if he did not assist to decapitate, he rejoiced in his downfall. The dawn of *this great man's* stern and inflexible disposition first displayed itself at Toulon, where he had the appointment of chef de brigade, when so much mischief was done to the inhabitants of

and the names, which were first given to him, shall be prevented, as far as this publication can prevent them, from sinking wholly into oblivion. The ostrich, it is said, hides his head in the reeds, and then thinks his body will not be discovered; and surely it will not be lost sight of by France, for her own honour, that Napoleone Buonaparte was a native of Corsica, although he now styles himself Napoleon Bonaparte.

that city, after the British had retreated; and where, under a deceitful proclamation, those who were deemed disaffected, or suspected only, were assembled on the Champ de Mars, to the amount of fifteen hundred, and there butchered. This exploit he authenticated by his memorable letter to the deputies who were sent to the different armies by the convention, when, under the assumed name of Brutus Buonaparte, he stated, that “ upon the field of glory, his feet inundated with the blood of traitors, he announced, with a heart beating with joy, that their orders were executed, and France revenged; that neither sex nor age had been spared; and that those who escaped, or were only mutilated by the discharge of the republican cannon, were dispatched by the swords of liberty, and the bayonets of equality !”* At

* The reader, in following the narrative, it is imagined, will observe, that from this massacre at Toulon,

Paris, in the affair of the Sections, where he had afterwards the command, he led the troops to still greater slaughter: there, too, with his artillery, to support the arbitrary proceedings of the convention, he swept the streets in every direction; and an undistinguishing and more extensive carnage, equally without respect either to age or sex, sealed that ferocious triumph.*

and through the long and frightful round of enormities committed by Buonaparte, or by his command, extending to the massacre at Madrid, one ferocious principle only has actuated his conduct; and thus accustomed to the shedding of human blood, it may, without exaggeration, be said of him, that

“ Direness, familiar to his slaught’rous thoughts,
Cannot once start him !”

* The sentiments which the people of Paris entertained of this transaction, was long since made conspicuous, in a caricature print, which marked their opinion of the conduct and disposition of the different generals in the service of the then French republic.

Having in this manner commenced his career, his sun thus rising in blood, he acquired further distinction by different means. He became the promoter of his own fortune, by allying himself in marriage with Josephine la Pagerie, born at Martinique, the widow of Alexander, Count de Beauharnois, the present condescending and august empress, who was the particular acquaintance and

It represented the interior of a scowerer's shop, where various regimentals were under the process of being cleaned. Each coat had a ticket mentioning to whom it belonged; and the delineated figures had each a label issuing from its mouth, containing some expression correspondent to the character of the owner. The figure which was represented exerting itself to get rid of the spots which were on the coat of Buonaparte, of which it was full, is made to exclaim, as attempting to clear away one larger than the rest, on which was written "Sections of Paris,"—"The devil's in this spot, it will never come out!"*

* "Que le diable emporte ce tache, il ne s'en ira jamais!"

friend of Barras; with whom, since the murder of her husband, as it has been delicately remarked, she had “exchanged complaisance for protection;” and, by that virtuous match of matrimonial dignity and affection, the interest of Barras was secured, which obtained for him the appointment of commander in chief of the French forces in Italy.—In Italy, justice must acknowledge that he performed almost improbabilities. He created a large army from one that was nearly disorganized; moulded it into discipline: fertile in invention and resources, raised supplies for it, careless of the means, and gave it confidence: and with that army he rapidly and successfully overran Italy; but not more by the means of numbers, and his great military abilities, and active enterprises, than from the effects of terror, bribery, fraud, threats, duplicity, and falsehood. Fraternity, liberty, and equality, were his watch-words:

equality! which can never be accomplished, the deceitful cant of the day, which he then artfully continued, and has since so completely exploded, while every act throughout his whole progress belied his expressions.* Medea, it will

* The cant term of equality, that insidious catch-word, had been made use of, even in the time of the Romans,—the younger Pliny remarks, and the passage may be referred to, by the English reader, in Melmoth's Translation of Pliny's Letters; in one of which was addressed by him to Tiro, that “to level and confound the different orders of mankind, is far from producing an equality among them; it is, in truth, the most unequal thing imaginable.” Even the severe republican Milton says,

“ If not equal all, yet free,
Equally free; for order and degrees
Jar not with liberty, but well consist :”

and the only perfect equality that can be obtained in any state, are laws equally binding and protective to every individual in the community.—Those words, too, “war with palaces, and peace to the cottage,” were another imposing phrase, which produced for the

be remembered, did not prepare her cauldron to renovate Æthon, but to destroy him; and the proclamations of

moment an electric effect on the continent: but those words, the very authors of them knew, were meant only to mislead the common mind. It was a fire-brand ignited for their own advantage; aware, that to destroy property, and to confound ranks, were the safest and surest plans to attain their ends; and the pen, with Buonaparte, ever preceded his sword. But the stroke of the sabre immediately followed the fatal seduction of the pen, and nations became overwhelmed by a false blandishment, giving faith to his words, and then writhing under his actions!

The Romans have been the great boasted authority for French imitation: and what were the Romans, if we will dispassionately consider their actions?—a great people, a victorious people, a haughty people, not a humane people!—and what were their republican rulers?—men who made and maintained themselves free in the senate and the forum, to give nominal liberty to the lower order, “to keep the word of promise to their hope, and break it to their faith”—men who held other nations in slavery, tore them from their country, their wives, their families, their children,

Buonaparte were issued only to deceive. He did not aim at restoring states and kingdoms from decrepitaney to health, for the benefit of the people; he went forth to oppress and overwhelm them,

their friends—compelled them to till their farms, perform their household drudgery, and then sold them when they were too old for labour. This picture is correct; for the conduct and advice of the elder Cato prove it. And what were the splendid Roman triumphs, but the procession of robbers?—and what is the Louvre, but a store-house of rich plunder?—We may gloss over the triumphs of the Romans, and their ovations! and speak of the Louvre in more gentle language, but the facts will not be altered.

In England, “that land of avariciousness, that nation of contemptible shop-keepers,” as Buonaparte is pleased to call her, but which the Spaniards denominate “the shield of humanity,” a slave no sooner sets foot on her sacred soil, than he is free! Buonaparte does not bring slaves home to France, he has enough there already,—but he binds his foreign slaves in an extended chain, which reaches over Italy and the continent.

inducing them to become the subjugators of their own governments.* Wherever atrocities could be committed, wherever

* Before any new government can be formed, suitable to the manners and habits of an ancient people, it should be considered, whether the people themselves are calculated for the new proposed establishment. To tear to pieces an ancient monarchy, under the vain expectation, that every idle schemer can assist in raising an envied political superstructure, which would astonish mankind, and exhibit itself as the most stupendous effort of human wisdom, may be the warm and honest hope of a philanthropic heart: but it is a hope dissonant to all experience, contrary to all recorded statements in the history of human society. France, instead of improving her government by mild means; instead of submitting her ancient fabric to a wise and cool investigation on the rational principles of a cautious improvement, knew no bounds to her innovating disposition; and she now pays the severe penalty of her rash and fluctuating schemes. The constitution of nations, like the rising strength and improvement of the constitution of the human body, to be permanently advantageous, “ must grow with its strength, and widen with its bark;” for the same treatment which is required for infancy,

devastation could take place, like the dæmon of evil, he was ready to direct the storm. In his route to Pavia, he set

the mild and salutary restraint, is no barrier to controul the passions in adolescence, nor to curb man's strength in the matured and full perfection of his nature. Man, by nature a lawless animal, is softened by religion, education, and laws ; but his original bias is apt to recur, and he uses his strength frequently to his own ruin, as well as the ruin of others. He prides himself on his consequence, without proving his virtues ; and imagines himself wise, without contemplating the weakness of his reason. France conceived that she could perform for herself, in a short time, what ages cannot bring to perfection—a government which would satisfy her great population, and make it wise and happy. In nearly fifteen years, since the fall of Louis the Sixteenth, numerous ephemeral constitutions have arisen, which came like shadows, and departed : she has seen the reign of her convention, the reign of Robespierre, the reign of the directory, the reign of her consuls, and the reign of Buonaparte. During the reign of the convention, instead of exhibiting the regenerated nation as a pure republic of unexampled perfection ; instead of simplifying the laws, encouraging religion, promoting piety, and assisting

fire to the village of Benasco, which he owned himself was a horrid sight, and gave orders to set even the city of Pavia

the moral virtues, she let every species of immorality loose; and contemned the Christian dispensation, a religion which even the Romans wondered at, admired, and dreaded; wondered at for its pure principles, and dreaded for its humble pretensions, so opposite to their ostensible display of proud worldly authority: and erected, instead, a religion, if it could be so denominated, or rather a device emanating from reason only, when all man's reason testifies his imperfections. In the reign of that convention too, when France triumphantly proclaimed the rights of man, and magnified his consequence, she proved his weakness, and declared his propensities; and, with her, the rights of man were the wrongs of nations. In the short time of thirty-seven months, but a long reign of absurdity and wickedness, abrogating her old statutes, she enacted *twelve thousand* laws instead; so preposterous a proportion, that it sets all reason at defiance, and exposed the fallacy of her acquired liberty. She has recovered her religion as the gift of her present ruler, but given to her as a state engine for his advantage; the pure precepts of the gospel, restored to her through his polluted and muddy source, and for a

in flames; but the timely appearance of the French garrison, which had been shut up in the castle, prevented that dreadful catastrophe from taking place;

profane purpose. Too wise to follow such a baneful example, and imitate the conduct of France in her distracted pursuit; Great Britain has abhorred her proceedings. Firm and immutable amid the revolutionary tumult that overspread Europe, she knew, that even to correct the errors, which, through time, had crept into her admired constitution, required the calmest temper of the most deliberate wisdom; and that to subvert the fabric, would be to imbibe the poison of destruction; and her strong tower of freedom remains a firm, unshaken monument of the wisdom of our ancestors, transmitted uninjured to their descendants; and which they, for their own safety and welfare, are blessed with too much sense to overturn. England knows the value of what she possesses, and may exultingly exclaim of her situation, that

“ Since no human systems e’er
Were plann’d so perfect, or so fair,
But some wise heads would mend them;
Let’s each Utopian wish repress,
And prize the blessings we possess,
Determin’d to defend them.

for had the blood of a single Frenchman been spilled, he would have erected, he declared, a column, on which should have been inscribed, “ Here Pavia stood.” He demanded of the city two hundred hostages, to be sent to France, and then calmly ordered the whole municipality to be shot, as a salutary example, as his dispatches mentioned, for the observation of Italy at large. After the battle of Salo, on the lake da Guarda,—human nature shudders at the bare recital of the deed,—he commanded all who, from severe wounds, were deemed unfit for service, to be mingled with the dead, which were to be conveyed away in waggons, and to be there strangled, or suffocated

If forms are best, we all agree,
Where man’s most happy and most free,
No matter what we style ’em ;
Britain may boldly stand the test,
Sole refuge of a world oppress’d,
And virtue’s safe asylum.”

And these, surely, are sentiments to which no true Englishman can refuse to subscribe.

under them, and then thrown into an extensive pit, prepared for the purpose, and covered with quick-lime! Several of these unhappy people, not having had life quite extinguished in them, the lime coming in contact with their green wounds, they were suddenly roused into an excruciating sense of their situation; and the dreadful screams which were uttered, till the ground was finally closed on their sufferings, so affected the humane rector of Salo, that he died from the horror which had seized him on hearing their cries.*

* Buonaparte, in this instance, had an example set him, which took place at Guadaloupe in the West Indies, when general Graham commanded the British troops at Berville; who was obliged, after a brave defence, to accept terms of capitulation from the French, and vainly endeavoured to include the royalists in the treaty; but his humanity could only save twenty-five of them, whom he got away by stealth. Fifty fell by the guillotine; and the remainder, coupled together, were placed on the brink of the trenches they had valiantly defended, and fired up-

Legitimate war must be respected, with all its horrors, if tempered with humanity, when the sword is drawn to pro-

on. The falling of the killed and wounded dragged those who were tied to them into the ditch; and by the throwing in of the earth, terrible to relate! the living and the dead shared one common grave!

This hideous deed was committed against an enemy; Buonaparte carried away the palm of atrocity, for his act had the crime of ingratitude added to cruelty: those whom he ordered to be strangled, were his own soldiers, his friends,—men who were suffering under the wounds they had received in raising their commander's military glory.

It were impossible not to turn with satisfaction to the pleasing contrast in the recollection of British conduct, at the memorable siege of Gibraltar, when near four hundred Spaniards were saved from the destruction which would otherwise have attended them, from the conflagration of their battering ships; and they were saved at the hazard of the lives of those who rescued them. The wounded were instantly sent to the hospital, where every care was taken of them that liberality could dictate. At the battle of the Nile too, and during the very heat of action, boats were ordered out by Lord Nelson, to

tect the freedom of a nation, preserve its rights, and assist its independence ;

“ When in the public cause,
With justice and benevolence employed :”

for those nations are most worthy to be free, who have the courage to maintain that proud and envied allotment. But the vice of war deserves the most decided reprobation. To overrun states and empires, from ambitious or avaricious motives ; to sully the bright star of national honour, by crushing the weak, and endeavouring to reduce the strong from thirst of dominion and the desire

save the people who had escaped from the French admiral's flag-ship, then in flames, and upwards of sixty Frenchmen were received into the British men of war. These were the acts of British tars to a foe at that moment not completely conquered. British soldiers are equally humane ; the instant the action is over, all animosity subsides ; and innumerable instances might be brought forward to record attentive and honourable feelings exhibited by them, as resplendent as their valour.

of lawless and unbounded sway, betrays the basest disposition.

It is not the aim of this sketch, to recount the battles which were fought by Buonaparte, to recite the names of those nations whom he subdued, nor the causes which occasioned hostilities. The list of the countries which he overran, would fill no small space in a circumscribed work; and to follow him with minute attention to the different towns and cities he occupied, with all the ramifications of so extended an irruption, would not only spread this work, intended as a general reminiscence, into a bulky volume, but would require other abilities to execute, in animating and appropriate language.

It will be sufficient in this limited performance to state, that to those who consider war without reflecting upon its distresses, the forcing of the bridge at Lodi, and the battle of Arcola, independ-

ent of the treaty of Campo Formio, were alone sufficient to establish the fame of any general with unfading glory, and were acts of that dazzling description, to call forth all the praise which an infatuated people could bestow on so successful a commander. It was natural, too, that the directory, who, as the executive branch of government, had appointed Buonaparte to head their armies, should wish to sound their own praise, while they applauded the hero who had so undauntedly fought for them.—On Buonaparte's return from his campaign, his public introduction to the directory was made a gratifying scene of national exultation and enthusiasm. The palace of the Luxembourg had been sumptuously prepared for the occasion with all that imposing art which the French—fond of magnificence and parade—could so well put in practice. An immense awning covered the great court:

the walls were hung round with the perforated and torn standards, which had been taken in the different actions, and which Buonaparte had sent to the directory, no less as an homage to them, than as a proud proof of the advantages he had gained, and were judiciously blended with the national colours: bands were selected of the first singers and musicians, to play and chaunt the national airs; and altars to liberty, reason, equality, and peace, were erected; for all religion had been abandoned; seats were built up to hold an immense concourse of spectators; and the streets and windows were lined and crowded through which the directorial procession was to pass. The ceremony took place; Buonaparte was received with bursts of applause; at his appearance every eye was fixed on him, and for a length of time the roof resounded with re-echoing notes of unceasing approbation. Speeches were made by the French

rulers, and answered by the general; and the fraternal embrace was given and received. But nations, to be generous, should be just; and, when they thank their commanders, they should remember, that the truly brave are merciful, and that the brightest quality in the soldier, next to courage and the proper discharge of his duty in action, is humanity. Under Moreau,* when victory caused him to pass through an enemy's country, he made the French arms respected; and by what means? war, under his direction,

* When Moreau captured the town of Nieuport, which was partly garrisoned by Hanoverians, he had the virtue to risk his life, by disobeying his orders, and giving quarter to those whom he deemed lawful enemies: at the same time, it must be more than lamented, that he thought it his duty to leave the emigrants to their fate. This was in the early period of the revolution, and under the immediate direction of the convention: when left more at large afterwards, and to his own feelings, his conduct was the reverse of that of Buonaparte.

was no where a scourge but upon the field of battle; and the states which were subdued by him gave ample testimony in his favour. The conqueror was not sullied by the assassin. The successes of a warrior should never screen the abhorrent cruelties of the man; and that nation degrades itself, which raises its commanders on a pedestal which crushes the mild virtues.*

* In mentioning the mild virtues, (the reappearance of which has been so long delayed), an opportunity is afforded of recurring to past scenes of misery, as well as present unhappiness: and here it may be observed, that the restless spirit of political fashion, to use, perhaps, not an unsuitable phrase, which took place at the commencement of the French revolution, and inclined mankind to promote innovations in governments, under the humane plea of ameliorating the condition of the oppressed subject, ran counter to every reasonable principle of sober discretion, in the imposing pursuit; and it is not to be wondered that the world should now submit to many privations, even under bad governments, rather than

The minutest circumstances will often develope the ruling passion of the mind beyond greater occurrences ; and Bu-

run the risk of publick tranquillity being disturbed, though in a just cause, and for a national advantage ; since no one can foresee, from the late examples, to what terrific excesses the desire of a reasonable change may lead, nor to what height those excesses may be carried. When once the appeal is made from government to public interference, men may rush on dangers, because they presume on light, and imagine good, without conceiving the evils which may arise.

In that nervous performance, by Mr. SHEE, Royal Academician, entitled " Rhymes on Art," (a work which, notwithstanding " the poverty of its titular pretensions," embraces a wide field of just and animated investigation of men, society, and manners, as well as the arts), there is an expressive passage, which so forcibly illustrates what the writer meant to remark, that he cannot avoid introducing it to the reader's notice. The ingenious author says,

" Nor yet in private life alone display'd,
A solemn farce in fashion's masquerade !

naparte's conduct in the Luxembourg evinced that an insatiable ambition had habitually a predominant sway. When

To higher spheres th' ambitious rage resorts,
Pollutes e'en politics, and catches courts :
Professors there, in pride of power elate,
Would try experiments on every state !
Reorganize the globe on *reason's* plan,
New temper nature, and new model man !
No more her ancient settled system priz'd,
Lo ! Europe like a compound analyz'd !
Her laws, modes, morals, melted down, to try
What forms the fighting elements supply ;
What shapes of social order rise refin'd,
From speculation's crucible combin'd !
While cool state chymists watch the boiling brim,
And life's low dregs upon the surface swim.
What ! though 'midst passion's fiery tumults toss'd,
A generation's in the process lost,
Regardless of his raw material, man,
The calm philosopher pursues his plan ;
Looks on the ruin of a race with scorn,
And works the weal of ages yet unborn."

Now the dreadful consequences which have arisen from the various events which took place in France, and which rapidly followed each change of political

Buonaparte approached the spot, or elevated platform, upon which the directors

opinion and *regeneration*, make an aggregate of mischief and cruel vengeance, which might be almost said to beggar arithmetic, in endeavouring to sum up the amount: “and yet would calm philosophers pursue their plan?”

If “*les Brigands Demasqués*,” by Daniçan, “*Prudhomme*,” (vol. vi.), and “*le Tableau General*,” are to be relied on, the destruction of lives by slaughter, and the devastation of houses and property, independent of the violence offered to the sex, and other dreadful occurrences—by suicide, madness, fear, and famine—present a story so afflicting and so extensive, that the mind recoils at the very thought; and this in France only, without adverting to Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Prussia, Spain, Portugal, St. Domingo, or Egypt. The mass of affliction is most horrible, as the sad events have proved. The guillotine alone has sacrificed upwards of eighteen thousand people; and this is a small item in the long list of human misery and slaughter; for, without exaggerating, the calculation of the whole of the lives which have fallen may be estimated at full *two millions* of souls, when embracing all the extended effects of

were seated, he was observed to ascend the first step calmly ; and then, in a hur-

the abhorrent and overwhelming revolution, which the world hailed with joy at the commencement, and has been compelled to weep at the recollection.

It is mentioned in Adolphus's History of France, that so early as the year 1794, the number of French who fell by various means of destruction—on the scaffold, in the waves, and in the field, by the hands of their countrymen—is estimated at nine hundred thousand ; of whom fifteen thousand were women, twenty-two thousand children ; and that more than twenty thousand dwellings were destroyed. The number of women seems to bear so small a proportion, that it may be rather supposed a cipher had been dropt, and that they amounted to a much higher rate, as the French had lost that respect for the sex for which they had been long celebrated.—The cruel manner in which the greater part of the murders were committed, was most detestable ; committed, not like the massacre of St. Bartholomew, infamous as that act was, in a short space of time ; but they were the continued atrocities of several years.

ried manner, accompanied by an agitated look, placed his foot suddenly upon the

Since that period, and during Buonaparte's career, the destruction of the human species, in battles, sieges, naval combats, executions, military vengeance, massacres, pestilence, and other attendant consequences of twelve additional years of war and devastation in and out of the kingdom, and including the war of extermination in La Vendee, and at St. Domingo—the calculation of two millions of lives must be deemed very far within the compass of a fair statement, than an overcharge. The individual who sacrifices his life for the benefit of the many, is a character above all praise; but to allow for a single moment, that the many are to be sacrificed for the benefit of the few; that is, that the good which may be done in future, and which can never compensate for the mischief of the past, will justify the means of so attaining that good, is a species of philosophical calculation far beyond the conception of the writer's reasoning faculties. Two centuries of the severest despotism, under the most despotic monarchs France ever knew, would not have produced a hundredth part of the mischief which republican despotism accomplished from

second, and as hastily withdrew it; and by that reserved action seemed to

the commencement of the French revolution, even to the year 1794, “ covering the world with blood, with tears, and with calamities.”—When the bastile was destroyed, there were not three persons confined within its walls; but France became afterwards, by her own act, one continued bastile; the Place de Grève was extended over the surface of her soil; and the whole nation became in a manner executioners against one another.

That the bastile, under the old regime, in the reign of Louis the Sixteenth, was more terrible in the sound than it was terrific in the interior management, with respect to its conduct to prisoners when under confinement, or in its subsequent consequences, may be made evident from some letters which the writer has in his possession. They were transmitted by a friend, who, from the malicious conduct of a consul of one of the northern powers, who had falsely represented him to the minister of police as a spy, was arrested at one of the sea-ports, where he was settled as a merchant in business, conveyed to Paris, and sent to the bastile. This was in the year 1781, at the time of the American war, when France was courting the northern confederacy, which were associated under

say, “ This throne I shall mount, but the time is not yet come ; pause my aspiring

the title of the armed neutrality ; and his liberation, therefore, was the more honourable to the French government. His papers were examined ; he was interrogated ; and, after five weeks, was liberated, and introduced to the Count de Vergennes on his restoration to society. He states, that although his confinement was solitary, he had soon the use of a library, might choose what books he pleased ; and having never read Moliere, was so entertained with him, that the fits of laughter which seized him, would have made any unfortunate neighbouring prisoner, *had there been any*, think him mad, and envied him the loss of reason, which had deprived him of the apparent sense of his captivity. He was allowed wine, had three meals each day, and he described the cook as being an excellent one. These circumstances are mentioned, though minute ; because, from the nature of the fact, they are interesting. His room was an octagon of twenty feet square, with double doors, a fire place, and a glazed window, strongly barricaded, of course, in all directions ; and furnished with a bed, two chairs, and two tables. He spent his time, he remarked, cheerfully, as he was conscious of his rectitude, and that his character would be cleared.

thoughts for a time!"*—With such a marked disposition, and decided propen-

To such men, neither the bastille, nor any other prison, could have alarms. How different were the prisons under the republican reign of terror! and how opposite are they under the new dynasty! Few men under the republican rule were incarcerated, however innocent, who did not endure every indignity and privation, while confined; and when restored to light, it was only to see the guillotine, and bow their necks under its keen stroke; to be submerged, or undergo some equally fatal catastrophe. Under the new dynasty, *the prisoners are said to die by their own hands!* are deported; or, in other words, doomed to breathe the pestilential and infectious air of the swamps of Cayenne; condemned, by that measure, to a lingering and almost certain death; or they are made to descend into the *oubliettes* of the prisons, and all further knowledge of them ceases; they are only remembered to have once lived. Such were the blessings of French republican government, while it lasted; and such are the present advantages of imperial benevolence and humanity!

The fashionable pursuit spoken of with so much concern in this note, that epidemic disease of novelty, dis-

sities, it is not to be wondered, that, peace being made with Austria, and the moment not being propitious to

played itself also in a thousand absurd as well as cruel shapes, extending itself even to the well-known alteration of the calendar, engendered by the thirst France had for dominion over the language and minds, as well as persons of mankind. She foolishly gave, in the plenitude of her vanity, ridiculous names to the months, unsuitable even to the meridian of Paris, as nature is not constant in her operations, though decisive in her laws : and doubly absurd, when applied to the whole globe, as the seasons vary in different latitudes; and that which might be relevant to Europe, would be incompatible in Asia or Africa.

Happy would it have been for France and mankind, had she confined herself to such silly and harmless innovations.

* The account of Buonaparte's conduct at the Luxembourg was received through the means of an eye-witness, whose whole attention, during the ceremony, was unalterably fixed upon him ; and who observed every motion, look, and attitude, from his entrance to his departure.

establish himself where his lofty ambition inclined, he could not bring his mind to submit to an inferior situation. Though he did not dare look England in the face, with whom France was still at war, he sought new employment, and new scope for his exertions, and he turned his attention to a different hemisphere, and to a spot where he was not afraid to encounter the enervated people who were to oppose him. The weak piping time of inactivity could have had no charms with him, who could not bear to see his shadow in the sun with satisfaction, unless he saw it surrounded with honours which had not yet been heaped upon him; for, notwithstanding the plainness of dress which he affected, when he appeared in public, that simplicity was evidently a cloak to his deceit, as he had higher views before him; and must have then robed himself, in imagination, in more gorgeous attire. It might

have been expected, therefore, that he would chalk out a new career for further exploits, and where he could rule again without controul. He was soon seen at the head of a large armament, which had been prepared at no little charge, steering for Egypt, to invade it, in defiance of all justice, at a time when the grand seignior continued in perfect amity with France, and he seized Malta in his passage. Fortunately for him, he escaped the English fleet, which he anxiously avoided, and reached Egypt. There he did not lose his nature, for his propensities continued, and his duplicity remained the same. He told the Egyptians that he had arrived among them from the most friendly motives, that they might be delivered from the tyranny of their beys, when he landed on their shores purposely to enslave them, renouncing his religion, if he had any, and turning Mahometan, that they might be the more deceived;

afflicting Egypt, by his presence, with a worse plague than ever its inhabitants had experienced, even from the wrath of the Almighty.* His various proclama-

* The opinion of Buonaparte's conduct and disposition, expressed in this work, was not taken up in consequence of the recent events in Spain and Portugal; the atrocity of which are only a continuance of his ambitious proceedings, more outrageously exemplified, if possible, than heretofore; pursued with a more barefaced defiance of every sentiment of honour and justice; and more destructive, in their consequences, to the safety and dignity of the continent, as well as the security of England. Every step of his career has been marked with turpitude. He is the enemy of every country. The plan for invading Egypt has been deemed to have been of his own suggesting, not but that the birth of the idea took place during the time of the monarchy. When the account arrived of his landing in Egypt, such, indeed, was the then confirmed opinion which the writer entertained of his destructive influence and power, that it gave rise to the following lines. They were written on reading his proclamation, that he had arrived in Egypt with the French army, from the sole

tions, which remain a state record, were a tissue in which falsehood and blasphemy were profusely interwoven. He de-

view to deliver the inhabitants from the tyranny of the beys: and they are brought forward at the present moment, only as they lead to a conclusion, which arose from considering them since they were written.

O'er Egypt's clime, so sacred scriptures tell,
Hailstones and fire, mingling, in torrents fell !
Darkness prevail'd ; with vermin teem'd the soil ;
And man's parch'd frame endur'd the painful boil ;
The murrain rag'd, the waters turn'd to blood,
For Pharaoh's pride the wrath of God withstood.
Unhappy land ! doom'd greater plagues to prove,
The *wrath* of *God*, exchang'd—for *Frenchmen's love* !

In confounding the whole French nation with the acts of Buonaparte and the other commanders, in the sarcasm contained in the last line, could not be avoided. While the nation remained the yielding instrument in their ruler's hands, supplied their armies with men, and applauded and approved the acts of their generals, they became amalgamated in one mass. It appears an invidious task, notwithstanding, to con-

clared, that there was only one God, and that Mahomet was his prophet; that the Egyptians need not fear for their religion, as he loved their prophet; that himself and his army were true mussulmans, and ought to be esteemed so, as they had destroyed the pope, and rescued Malta from the influence of Russia, the inveterate enemy of mussulmans; that he came to restore their rights, to punish usurpers,

found millions of people in one indiscriminate weight of general reprobation; for it must be supposed, by every ingenuous mind, and cannot be doubted, that the great majority of the people of France, if they could show themselves, are blessed with different sentiments, and other feelings: all sense of propriety would be outraged in thinking or writing otherwise. The brightest examples have been displayed in former times, in innumerable instances, which have embraced all the virtues; and when the immoral tempest shall have subsided, which has not only shook France herself to her very centre, but desolated the surrounding regions, those virtues will reappear. The Upas is no growth of France; but, planted and taking root in her soil, will send forth all its baneful qualities.

and not to disturb their religion ; that he respected more than the Mamelukes, God, his prophet, and the Koran ; and that he hoped the time was not far off, when he should be able to make all the world wise and enlightened ; and establish one uniform system, founded on the principles of the Alcoran, which expressed the truths, and the only truths, which could render mankind happy.* He wrote to the grand vizier, that he had invariably declared that it was the aim of the French to subdue the Mamelukes only, and not

* It were impossible, on reading these proclamations, not to remember the words which Milton puts into the mouth of Satan, and to assimilate them with Buonaparte, as equally spoken by him in blasphemous arrogance :

“ Evil be thou my good ; by thee at least
Divided empire with heav’n’s King I hold,
By thee, and more than half perhaps will reign ;
As man ere long, and this new world, shall know :

for it is by crimes that Buonaparte has succeeded, and through evil that he now rules !

to make war against the sublime porte; it was to shut out Great Britain from Egypt, not their great and faithful ally, the emperor Selim. He wrote to general Kleber privately, and in direct contradiction to what he had thus written to the vizier, that the possession of Egypt was of importance to France; that he had heard that the Turkish empire threatened destruction on all sides to the French forces, and that the evacuation of Egypt would be one of the greatest misfortunes. But, above all, he had the indecent and audacious presumption profanely and unblushingly to declare, that those who were not his friends, would neither have happiness in this world nor the next; that he possessed the attributes of the Almighty, and knew the secret thoughts of the heart, even before they were divulged; that he was God's immediate messenger, for he had commanded him to be mild and merciful; that it was

written in the second book of the Koran, in twenty places, that after he had destroyed the enemies of Islamism and overturned the cross, he should come from the West to fulfil the task which was imposed upon him; and that all the world would know, by evidence too strong to be denied, that he was conducted by orders from above, and that no human efforts could prevail against him. The porte answered his proclamations with great good sense and dignity. Some of the emissaries of Buonaparte had pretended, it is said, to persuade the people of Egypt, that they had been sent by Mahomet to give them perfect liberty and happiness, and render their religion the sovereign religion on earth. But the people answered, that they could have no faith in such promises from those who had denied their God and renounced their own prophet: and they could not but be right, for in what way was his

mildness and mercy shown to them, and after what manner did he perform his *divine mission*? He took Alexandria by storm, which was then an almost defenceless city; and, with the intent to strike terror, murdered all who came in the way, even those who fled to the mosques for safety, and unrelentingly gave up the city, for four hours, to massacre and pillage. Having thus cruelly established himself at Alexandria, he set out to dispossess still further the Turkish sultan of his dominions; and after passing the Desert, reaching the Nile, and attacking the Mamelukes, who opposed him in various battles, obtained possession of Cairo, generously establishing a government for the happiness of the people; or, in other words, appointed, as usual, his army to be his tax-gatherers, in order that that very people might be plundered, to enable him to pay his own troops for the blessings which they

brought with them, and the freedom they thus bestowed.

From Cairo he sallied forth to subjugate the remainder of Egypt; reached El Arish, which soon fell to him; marched to Gaza, which he got possession of with considerable stores, and then prosecuted his route to Jaffa; put most of the garrison to the sword; but the rest flying to their mosques, the French soldiers in this instance showed a generosity of sentiment, as new in their conduct, as it was liberal. In defiance of the wishes and orders of Buonaparte, they refused to pursue an enemy which did not resist them, and spared those who implored their mercy. This liberal act Buonaparte remembered, and soon put their discipline to a strong trial, to wipe off this stain of disgraceful humanity, so unbecoming an army which was to act under him. He had taken a considerable number of Turkish troops in

his different engagements ; these he inspected in person, and deliberately consigned over to massacre. He ordered them, near three thousand eight hundred in number, to be marched in regular files and defenceless, to an eminence ; and when they had been drawn up in line, surrounded them with his forces, and fusiladed them. Not satisfied with having given the orders, he looked through a glass from a distance, and gratified his heart by witnessing the obedience of his troops in performing this detestable deed.* Their bodies were

* When the English and Turks proceeded towards El Aft, “ which the French, after some slight skirmishing, abandoned, few were killed ; but those who fell, were beheaded by the Turks. The British general remonstrated against this act of inhumanity, and even engaged the Captain Pacha in the cause ; but the soldiery answered by indignant exclamations of Jaffa ! Jaffa !”—*Adolphus*.

It would be an endless task to substantiate every act

left unburied, to whiten the plains with their bones; and the stench which arose engendered a disease, which proved fatal to his own soldiers. The sick and wounded in his army had now increased in his hospitals; and remembering what he had successfully put in practice at Salo, to save himself the trouble and expense of curing or removing them, he poisoned those who were incapable of returning to their ranks, by having opium administered to them in their food; and though he prevented their outcries, five hundred and eighty French soldiers fell victims to his unparalleled barbarity. In retiring in the night from before the walls of St. Jean d'Acre, where he had commanded in person, and where

of atrocity, by bringing forward collateral passages from other works to support the narrative. Enough, it is imagined, has been already done, to prove that no statements are made without a proper foundation.

he had been disgracefully repulsed, after a siege of sixty days, he wantonly set fire to several villages in his retreat; and, as if in impotent revenge for his late defeat, put the wretched inhabitants to the sword. At d'Acre, his conduct, if possible, had been more than usually atrocious; he had endeavoured to betray the garrison into a surrender, by an act, which, if he had then been, or should hereafter be, taken by the Turks or the English, would subject him to the extreme of military punishment: an act no less unlawful, in a military point of view, than the very excess of baseness. He sent a dervise, protected by the sacred security of a flag of truce, to request a suspension of arms, for the humane purpose, as he stated, to bury his dead; and, under the cover of that flag, concealed a preconcerted plan to take the troops by surprise, and gain possession of the town by storm. While

the flag was waiting for an answer, to his eternal disgrace, both as a soldier and a man, he directed an immediate assault; but the garrison knowing their enemy, were upon their guard, and the villany was defeated. It was with the utmost difficulty that the dervise could be saved from the fury of the soldiers, who thought him a voluntary instrument in the treason; and he was rescued, to be sent back with a letter of remonstrance, which covered the French army with shame.

Buonaparte now returned to Cairo; and his conduct on that occasion, it must be admitted, was the perfection of cunning and ingenious artifice. His troops felt themselves lowered in their own esteem; had been unsuccessful, and were nearly approaching to mutiny. Angry with their commander for the unnecessary sacrifice of lives, seven thousand of their companions having ingloriously fallen; and wearied out with the fa-

tigue and disappointment of an unprofitable campaign, they were ready to sacrifice him to their revenge. To rescue himself alike from odium and danger, he deceived the people at Cairo, and regained the good-will of his troops, by leading them, unexpectedly, through triumphal arches, which he had ordered to be erected for the purpose; (cheering their drooping spirits by thus making them return as if they were conquerors); commanded illuminations; and, to give further effect to this imposing scene, marched forward a small detachment of grenadiers; whom he accused of cowardice, in having refused to make another assault against the walls of d'Acre; ordered them for a time to wear their arms slung behind them, as a symbol of disgrace; and thus complimented and flattered the rest of his army by this artful sacrifice of the honour of a few; a Machiavelian policy, which showed his complete knowledge

of mankind. Neither did Cairo escape a share of the general calamity. A horrible scene of slaughter and conflagration was exhibited within the walls, during the time which it had remained under French domination, and which more than equalled every other affliction this unfortunate country had been doomed to encounter from the presence of her benevolent friends. Under the pretext of quelling a disturbance, which might have been easily suppressed, but in which some French lives had been lost in the outset, an indiscriminate massacre took place of the most savage description: friends and foes were alike exterminated, to glut the vindictive fury of his soldiers. The dreadful glare occasioned by the burning of part of the city, the incessant roaring of artillery from the citadel, the screams and groans of all classes, and even the softer sex suing in vain for quarter, accompanied by the

ferocious shouts with which the French rallied and encouraged each other, formed a complication of horrors, which even imagination can scarcely conceive. The sufferings were dreadful ; quarter was tardily and reluctantly granted ; the city recovered a gloomy tranquillity ; but the most rigorous measures were adopted for preventing future insurrection.

Such were the frightful scenes which took place while Buonaparte was in Egypt, contaminating her soil. But the time was now fast approaching when his invincible army, as he had been accustomed to pronounce it, (whose proud standard became a trophy to the still more invincible English), which had been equally subservient to his ambition and crimes, and had been brought into Egypt under golden promises, was to be left to capitulate to those cowardly English, as he affected to call them, who had chased him in every direction.

But in what way was their want of valour confessed by him?—In the anxious manner in which he had left Malta, after it had been captured, without leaving a sufficient garrison, or even giving himself time to take on board his fleet a supply of water equal to the consumption of the armament?—in his extreme impatience to get on shore, when he arrived at Egypt, fearful of being attacked, as the British had been seen off Alexandria only two days preceding; and, when descriing a vessel in the offing, which his fear prompted him to believe was part of the English squadron, he exclaimed, with the greatest agitation, “ Fortune! wilt thou abandon me?”—or in his subsequent trepidation when flying from Egypt, recorded in his letter to Kleber, in which he stated, that “ his constant apprehension lest the British should again appear on the coast, compelled him to hasten his voyage by two

or three days ?"—These, on the contrary, are the strongest evidence of the awe in which he stood of their power and courage, and are the best reply to all his vain boasting to their prejudice. But his brave soldiers, his friends and faithful companions in arms, his own children, to whom he was so tenderly attached, as his parting words affected to express, were to be abandoned, for he evidently did not intend to return, and was so careless of their fate, that he had even deprived the forts of the marine artillery, to protect his own passage to France, though he knew that all the heavy ordnance had been lost in his disastrous invasion of Syria. From these, *his own children*, he surreptitiously withdrew in the night,* leaving the mili-

* Kleber, who, when Buonaparte fled from Egypt, was appointed by him to the command of the forsaken army, wrote to Barras, one of the directors, that " Buonaparte had left the troops naked, absolutely in want of arms, gun-powder, and cannon-

tary chest empty, the men in a great measure without clothing, arms, or ammu-

ball; and did not leave a single sous in the military chest, nor any thing capable of being turned into money." He fled to better his own condition. Kleber was an honourable man and able officer; but neither ability nor honour could secure him from his hard fate—he was murdered in a garden at Cairo; but it was not till after Buonaparte had reached France, usurped the government, and sent dispatches to Egypt. It was universally imagined that his death was premeditated, and the quarter suspected from whence it originated. Kleber had too much of the milk of human nature in his composition, had refused to fusilade the Turks in cold blood at Jaffa, was too much in the secret of the Egyptian campaign, had remonstrated against Buonaparte's conduct, and was too independent in mind to be awed and flattered into silence like Berthier and other commanders.*

* It is a pleasure to bring again before their country, the names of John Taylor and James Harding, two seamen belonging to the *Alcmene* frigate, who, at the hazard of their lives, dashed overboard, and saved the dispatches which contained the interesting letters alluded to. It is equally satisfactory to know that those men were gratefully remunerated.

niton, and treacherously and clandestinely fled to France, there traitorously to seize the reins of that government which had hired him, as a foreign mercenary,* to be its servant, and obey its commands.

The conduct which Buonaparte pursued when in Egypt, has been more particularly developed than any other part of his career. This circumstance has arisen in consequence of the French dispatches from Egypt having been inter-

* Should it be objected, that, as Buonaparte had been educated in France, and was born in Corsica, which had long formed an integral part of her dominion, he cannot with propriety be denominated a foreign mercenary, it should be brought to mind, that having altered his name, he evidently conceived himself no native; and as his armies were composed of a heterogeneous mixture of all nations, who served in a manner for plunder, and looked up to *him*, and not to France, for promotion, it would be too nice a distinction to condemn the term.

cepted, by which the world was at last acquainted with the truth. The letters contained in these dispatches incontestably betray his want of honour, as well as total disregard of all feeling, and tear away the cloak of duplicity under which he had screened his actions. They give a faithful statement of his army, its acts, its situation, and its difficulties.

The dignified and manly expressions of Kleber, and the statements of Dugua, Damas, and Poussielgue, to the directory, equally criminate the conduct of their commander-in-chief; who, when he could no longer acquire credit to himself by his successes, was wholly regardless of the safety and fame of his soldiers, and left them to their fate.

Kleber was grossly deceived by Buonaparte, who had appointed that general to attend him at Rosetta: but Buonaparte had disappeared; and, instead of meeting with him, he found only his

orders. Those intercepted letters not only describe the deplorable condition of the French army, but the miserable state to which the inhabitants of Egypt were reduced. They relate in what way they fled from oppression, and in what manner their oppressors behaved when they got them into their power: they tell the world, “ *that they were imprisoned, and beaten in the most cruel manner, to force their money or property from them, and that their heads were cut off when they would not discover their treasures!*” they show that Buonaparte gave directions to his successor in command, to secure five or six hundred Mamelukes, or inhabitants of Egypt of note, *no matter by what plea*, and send them to France: they mention, that when the French first landed in Egypt, the Egyptians believed that it was with the consent of the grand seignior, and they submitted with less reluc-

tance: but when they found that the French HAD NOT SPOKEN TRUTH,* they were ready to betray them. They represent, that Kleber was ordered strenuously and constantly to adhere to the assertion which Buonaparte had advanced, that France never had the least idea of taking Egypt from the grand seignior; and they express the indignant sentiments of Kleber's honourable mind, who represented that he could authenticate to the directory every syllable which he had advanced, and who pointed out to them a particular passage in Buonaparte's instructions, because it was characteristic of his conduct *in more than one point of view*; and that passage related to the unfeeling indifference with which Buonaparte had dwelt on the fate

* Poussielgue's emphatic expressions, in his letter to the executive directory, are, "Ceux qui paroissent nous servir, se croient, *par notre* MENSonge, autorisés à nous trahir!"

of the soldiers, in case fifteen hundred of them should be taken off by that destructive disorder the plague. All the letters unite in expressing astonishment at his proceedings, and declare that it never could have been believed that he would have conducted himself in the manner in which he had done, by so shameful an abandonment of his army.*

* In further elucidation of Buonaparte's proceedings in Egypt, it should be mentioned what the intercepted letters relate, that he authorized Kleber, in case any of the members of the commission of arts could be of use to him, "*to put them in requisition without scruple,*" instead of sending them to France as they had been promised:—that, "when he left the army *naked*, he knew that the privation of clothing was the more calamitous, as it was completely ascertained that it was one of the most active causes of the dysenteries and ophthalmies which constantly prevailed; the first in particular, which had operated with alarming effect on bodies already weakened and exhausted by fatigue:" and that when Buonaparte left Kleber, to "sustain the

It has been the fate of many nations which have hired foreigners to fight for them, to have been subjugated by those very commanders whom they had taken into their pay; and the language of that poetry is founded no less on the knowledge of history than human nature, which says,

“ Unsafe and wretched is that monarch’s state,
Who weakly trusts to mercenary bands
The guard or of his person or his realm :
Unfaithful, insolent, rapacious, base,
He soon shall prove them, and become himself
Their slave, to hold his kingdom at their will :”

and this, France, a republic when she first employed Buonaparte, now feels; and

enormous burthen of commanding the army of the East, HE SAW THE FATAL CRISIS APPROACHING which the orders of the directory had not permitted him to surmount.” Let this conduct on his quitting his army, be contrasted with the duty which British officers feel, and take a pride in performing to the

she wears those chains which she had forged, and put into his hands to bind other nations. Buonaparte! a foreigner, tyrannises over France. He has conquered her with her own arms: enslaved her, not to raise himself only, but his family also, to the height of despotism and usurped power; and she now fights his battles, not her cause.

On his unexpected return to France, and he had again the good luck to escape the British cruisers, which got sight of the frigate in which he sailed, and pursued her, he adopted a different conduct than when he was last at Paris: he seemed more sensible to demonstrations of joy

men entrusted to their care, who will suffer themselves even to be blown up, or sunk with their ships, rather than leave one man on board unprotected by their presence; and who, on shore, are the first in proceeding to action, and the last to escape from danger; and who never abandon their men, like Buonaparte, in the midst of distresses and difficulties.

than formerly; shook several soldiers by the hand, who had served with him in Italy, and appeared more open in his manner; hiding his schemes in smiles and affability. But he had no sooner reached Paris, than he began, as usual, to intrigue; and taking advantage of political dissensions, being ever on the alert, with advice of Sieyes, and the assistance of his brother, Lucien Buonaparte, he dismissed the imbecile directory and the councils, causing himself to be declared chief consul; and firmly establishing himself in his new and presumptuously acquired authority, ruled France with a tyrant's hand, and awed all Europe.

The interval which took place between the arrival of Buonaparte at Paris and his assumption of the consulate power, though short, was a period of great importance. The interest of nations was afloat as well as the independence or slavery of France, in the suc-

cess or failure of his measures. But Paris was not the proper place to put his schemes of aggrandizement into execution. Before that unfortunate monarch, Louis the Sixteenth, was dethroned and inhumanly sent to the scaffold, he had been insultingly brought from Versailles to the metropolis with the intent to keep him in complete subjection, by fixing his residence in the midst of an extensive city, where it would be easy to create disturbances and render a corrupt and turbulent rabble, falsely and wickedly called the sovereign people, subservient to the designs of a sanguinary set of men determined to raise a democracy on the downfall of the throne.

It could not but have been obvious to those adherents of Buonaparte who had taken an active part at the commencement of the French revolution, and who were now supporting opposite principles, that the very steps which they had then

pursued were wholly incompatible with their present schemes: they therefore wisely removed the seat of government to St. Cloud, under the plea of state necessity, but, in fact, that they might be enabled more securely to further their plans: and the council of ancients, as well as the council of five hundred, were weakly led into the snare.

The destinies of nations have frequently depended on the accidental occurrences of a moment. But it was not owing to the vigour of Buonaparte's mind that success followed at the instant when the great attack was made against the directorial authority, nor to his happy seizure of any fortuitous circumstance which occurred. On the contrary, though he headed the opposition, and was himself the principal object of intended elevation, he shrunk at the trial; and had not Lucien Buonaparte, and those who were to second him, promptly

taken the lead, he would have fallen a sacrifice to his timidity.

In the midst of the tumult which burst forth in the council of five hundred when his plans were unravelled, the repeated vociferations of kill him! kill him! down with the dictator! which assailed his ears, and his terrified apprehensions at the sight of the uplifted weapons which were ready to put those threats into execution, quite unmanned him; he was lost for a moment, is said even to have fainted, "his coward lips did lose their colour;"* and had not General le Febre with a detachment of grenadiers flown to his assistance, his career would have been then finished.

In contemplating this scene, the most

* When Shakspeare makes Cassius, in speaking of Julius Cæsar, say, "his coward lips did from their colour fly," that colour was represented to have fled from sickness, not from fear.

important incident in his life, we are naturally led to be astonished that he who had braved death in a thousand shapes in the midst of the utmost rage of battle, and surrounded with slaughter, should have surrendered himself to more than womanish fears at a time when his personal valour and collectedness were most wanted, and when his life and future fortunes were at stake. It shows the imbecility of his real nature, and the sense he must have entertained of the injustice of his cause. He betrayed an almost equal sense of apprehension, when he was subsequently threatened with assassination at Milan, on going thither to be crowned. His conduct, therefore, in both instances incontestably discover that the *invincible Buonaparte* is not a hero at all times.*

* Although the language of history requires a sedateness of expression consonant to the simplicity of truth, the narration of the abstracted life of

“ It has been generally imagined, but falsely, that Napoleone Buonaparte governs, or rather tyrannises, by himself, according to his own capacity, capricès, or interest; that all his acts, all his changes, are the sole consequence of his own exclusive unprejudiced will, as well as unlimited authority; that both his greatness and his littleness, his successes and his crimes, originate entirely with himself; that the fortunate hero, who

an individual, however exalted the situation, may admit of greater indulgence; and in a work such as this professes to account itself, the muse may not inaptly be introduced, to animate—not to falsify the story. It may be allowable then to observe, when referring to these occurrences, that

“ it doth amaze us
A man of such a feeble temper should
Get the start of the majestic world
And bear the palm alone.”

The mechanical courage acquired in the field, is widely different from that implanted by nature!

marched triumphantly over the Alps, and the dastardly murderer that disgraced human nature at Jaffa, because the same person, owed victory to himself alone, and by himself alone commanded massacre; that the same genius, unbiassed and unsupported, crushed factions, erected a throne, and reconstructed racks; that the same mind restored and protected Christianity, and proscribed and assassinated a d'Enghien.

“ All these contradictions, all these virtues and vices, may be found in the same person; but Buonaparte individually, or isolated, has no claim to them. Except on some sudden occasions, that call for immediate decision, no sovereign rules less by himself than Buonaparte, because no sovereign is more surrounded by favourites and counsellors, by needy adventurers and crafty intriguers.

“ What sovereign has more relatives to enrich, or more services to recompense;

more evils to repair, more jealousies to dread, more dangers to fear, more clamours to silence, or stands more in need of information and advice?*

Let it be remembered, that he who now governs empires and nations, a few years ago commanded only a battery, and a little time past was only a military chieftain. The difference is as immense, indeed, between the sceptre of a monarch and the sword of a general, as between the wise legislator who protects the lives and property of his contemporaries, and the hireling robber who wades through rivers of blood to obtain plunder at the expense and misery of generations. The lower classes of all countries have produced persons, who have distinguished themselves as warriors; but what subject has yet usurped a throne, and by his

* What would Buonaparte have been without Talleyrand?

eminence and achievements, without infringing on the laws and liberties of his country, proved himself worthy to reign? Besides, the education which Buonaparte received, was entirely military; and a man, (let his innate abilities be ever so surprising or excellent), who, during the first thirty years of his life, has made either military or political tactics or exploits his only study, certainly cannot excel equally in the cabinet and in the camp. It would be as foolish to believe, as absurd to expect, a perfection almost beyond the reach of any man, and of Buonaparte more than of any one else; a man who, like him, is the continual slave of his passions.”*

* There appeared so much truth in these reflections, that the writer could not avoid transcribing them. They are taken from “The Secret History of the Cabinet of St. Cloud;” a work too apocryphal, perhaps, to be relied on for facts; but, nevertheless, its reasonings may be attended to.

Leaving the reader to draw his own conclusions on the subject, let it be stated, in continuation, that he soon resumed his accustomed pursuits; put himself in a military position; and his successes were again the theme of every tongue, and the astonishment and grief of the afflicted continent. He had found France, it must be confessed, on his return from Egypt, in a far different state than what it was in when he had left it. It had sunk, under the guidance of the directory, to a low ebb of defeat and misery, and he caused the stream of success to flow, with its wonted rapidity, to the full tide and reascendancy of military glory. Italy and the North felt his influence: they saw him again the same lord of the ascendant; and, comet-like, from his horrid hair shake pestilence and war, to retain himself in his usurped power. His great and constant successes in arms confess his fame:

they could not be the effect of chance, though Fortune attended him as one of her greatest favourites, but were the result of active perseverance, presence of mind at all times, great practical skill, and unquestionable conduct and courage in the field. But in the closet, when the battle has done raging, all his vindictive passions rise; his coolness is gone, except the coolness to meditate mischief, and the temper and heart to perform it.

In giving such unqualified praise to Buonaparte as a military commander, the inference has been drawn from his successes, though there are those who doubt his extreme military knowledge. But whether the battle of Marengo was obtained or not by the timely appearance of Desaix leading on fresh troops with dauntless intrepidity at the close of day, after every thing was nearly lost, the Austrians were rapidly gaining ground,

and a retreat had been sounded ; or whether the battles of Austerlitz, Jena, Eylau, Friedland, and other memorable contests, were acquired no less by the united judgment and spirit of the officers, and ardour of the men, who fought under him, than from his own skill and superintending direction, must be left to those who have studied military tactics, and examined with attention the arrangements as well as manœuvres of each particular contest. Still it should be mentioned, that the forcing of the bridge at Lodi has ever been deemed an unnecessary waste of men's lives : and though Buonaparte stated his loss to be only one tenth part of the number, (for he always conceals his own losses, and magnifies those of his enemy), the amount was full four thousand men. It has been deemed unnecessary ; for the delay of a few days, and other dispositions, would have rendered the passage

of the Adda as bloodless as that of the Po. In spite of the decided opinion of a council of officers, which he summoned, the bridge must be passed, and was carried: but the success of an enterprise does not render an act less reproachable. Malcamp, who commanded the Austrian forces, would not allow the bridge to be broken down, not conceiving an enemy could be rash enough to attempt to cross it by force, from the powerful way in which it was protected in all directions by his artillery. He did not know that Buonaparte, a perfect maniac under passion, restraint, and disappointment, spared neither friend nor foe to attain his ends, careless if thousands fell in the pursuit.—It may be deemed a bold suggestion to maintain, that Buonaparte would not hesitate to march an army across the crater of Vesuvius, to feed his anger or satiate his ambition: but should the opinion be thought too strong, let

it be remembered that he made the dead bodies of his troops a scaling ladder for the survivors to mount up to the bastions of d'Acre!

The treaty of Leoben, it has been represented also, saved Buonaparte from disgrace, and deprived the arch-duke Charles of raising his own glory on the ruin of his rival, and becoming the second time the saviour of Germany. Buonaparte, from too great eagerness, had placed himself in such an untenable position, that no resource was left him but to retreat, which seemed almost impracticable. He had presumptuously aspired to stand alone the competitor of the Austrian prince, and render the defeat of that gallant general a new title to fame. Although ill seconded by the ministers at Vienna, as well as by many of the officers under his command, and with limited numbers, the arch-duke was not doomed to resign his laurels to

him : he presented in all points of an extended line an obstinate resistance, inch by inch disputed the ground, separated his enemy from his magazines, drew him into defiles, harrassed him by his intrepidity, diminished his force and increased his own, opposed him formidably in front, surrounded and turned his flanks, and threatened his rear. At this auspicious moment for the empire, the treaty of peace, unfortunately for Austria and Europe, was signed. It must in justice be admitted that Buonaparte was then many years younger than he now is, and less experienced in command ; and so, it should be remembered, was the archduke Charles.

At the period of signing this treaty, the apparent preponderance of France over Germany was exaggerated by terror or treachery ; and those events which were represented as motives of despair to the imperial cabinet, ought to

have induced the most firm confidence. Fortune again stood on the side of Buonaparte, and led him, in this instance, from his difficulties, through the means of political interference.

Nor has bribery proved an unsuccessful instrument in upholding his military name in alliance with his sword, sharpening its edge, and showing in what manner the stroke could fall to most advantage. This was made evident from the result of the attempt, on the part of the Austrians, to relieve Mantua, which he was besieging, when “neither the valour and judgment of Buonaparte, nor the errors of the Austrian commanders, contributed so much to their overthrow, as the information which the leader of the French always obtained of the intentions of his opponents; information so precise and so true, as to place it beyond a doubt that it was not procured from common observers, but by

those who were acquainted with all that passed in the councils of the generals.

Except in Egypt,* the further conquest of which he abandoned, when hopeless, as well as from interested motives, Buona-
parte has scarcely been seen but as a victor; and his talents not being known in adversity, cannot be compared with the struggles and science of other able com-

* At d'Acre, "the vigorous resistance of the besieged, their frequent sallies, and indefatigable exertions, inflamed all the furious passions of his mind to their most deadly pitch; and the thirst for the blood of his enemies, and the unfeeling disregard of the lives of his followers, which distinguished his career, showed their combined effects in his subsequent movements: while rage, disappointment, or the novelty of the service, (for he had never before conducted the regular operations of a siege), added to his precipitation and impatience, led him to commit such palpable errors, as Sir Sidney Smith remarked, as even the common seaman could discern."

Adolphus.

manders, who have been placed by the accidents of war in a different situation. Xenophon, as long as language exists, will be renowned for the retreat of the ten thousand; and Moreau will be as highly respected, for his masterly return through the forests of Suabia: neither will the march of Suwarrow across the Grisons be lessened by the passage of St. Bernard, the boast of the French, and the great theme of applause to Napoleone. These, however, are weighty subjects to discuss, and fall not within the scope of this performance: the question is left as it was found, without the presumption of decision.

But Buonaparte is awarded the meed of superiority for transcendant cruelties. Yet candour may ask, whether all the atrocities which were committed by the armies under his immediate direction should be heaped on his devoted head? and the answer will be plain: when a

general appropriates to himself the glory of the day and the splendour of a campaign in an indiscriminate praise, he must equally bear the odium which will attach to the proceedings which disgrace his victories. The commander-in-chief who does not controul his armies, sanctions their crimes. Buonaparte did more : he not only sanctioned them, but granted permission to their hideous excesses.

Though Buonaparte must not be judged by the accounts which he ordered to be published of his battles, it must be admitted, under *that* limit, that his successes have been almost unparalleled.

It has been remarked of him, that, when with his armies, he was without either a superior or rival ; and feeling his strength and knowing his own cunning, the transformation must have seemed easy to him from the baton of the commander to the sceptre of the sovereign. His first progressive step had

been on the submissive heads of the directory. At the very feast which was given to him, on his return from Egypt, in the church of St. Sulpice, which was then called the Temple of Victory, he had meditated their downfall; and though he might not immediately have looked forward to the summit of his ambition in the attainment of a crown, he must have kept the regal diadem in view. His constant principle was to deceive. His route from Frejus to Paris had been attended with an almost continued procession and triumph; and Buonaparte, the *fugitive*, was received, as the *conqueror* of Egypt, with inconsiderate exultation and joy. Had he possessed the nice sense of feeling which attaches to true honour, his heart would have sunk within him at this unmerited praise, and have blushed at his reception: but he who, on his return to Cairo, after his defeat at St. Jean d'Acre,

could order triumphal arches to be erected for his victories, knew not how to blush !

The important period had now arrived, which Buonaparte found favourable for him to pursue, and bring to maturity, without loss of time, his gigantic schemes of inordinate ambition, in the assumption of a diadem; and to obtain the hereditary rule over the vast empire of France and its dependencies, under the creation of a new dynasty.

To suppose, that this extraordinarily daring attempt could have been accomplished by the plenitude of his power, self-willed, without the aid of great collateral assistance, is by no means consistent with sense. Every possible engine was set at work, to render contending interests subservient to his views, and bring men's minds to one opinion, from interested, not from patriotic motives.

France was at peace with the continent; and her sole struggle was with

Great Britain, who stood single-handed ; and who, though completely able to oppose and conquer him on the ocean, and bid defiance on her own shores, had no means left, (from the weakened condition to which Europe was reduced, exhausted as she was by the events of a calamitous war, and sunk into sullen repose), by which she could raise any opposition to his pernicious measures.

When Buonaparte had, in the year 1802, been made chief consul for ten years, in addition to his former term, he had affected not to rest satisfied with the decree of the senate, unless recourse was had to the confirmation of it by an *appel* to the people, “ whence all power emanates.”* But this measure, when submit-

* That deference arose from designing motives ; as, through the interposition of the two other consuls, he artfully caused the question to be asked, Whether Napoleone Buonaparte should not be made chief consul for life ?

ted to the different departments, though managed with adroitness, did not produce the expected effect: and having the power of the state under his controul, the *appel* was hastily closed, and he caused himself to be declared chief consul for life, without further delay; braving truth, and pronouncing his election, as springing from the free voice of the nation.

The decree conferring the chief consulship, was then presented to him, as the act of France, recognized and avowed under the name and authority of the subservient senate, the admitted organ of legal communication. “ But the joy with which the senate was penetrated, in offering to him the unfeigned tribute of its solicitations, of its respect, of its love, and which applauded itself for the object of its proceedings; *inasmuch, as it consummated what was expected from his foresight* ;” was the act of joy of Buonaparte himself, brought about by his despotic

will: for the presentation, under this new form, was a mere trick to render the election more delusive to the people, and more important to himself.

The votes were declared to be 3,500,000; a small proportion of 27,000,000, the boasted population of France; and little consonant to an event, in which the people were said to have “simultaneously and unanimously agreed.” The manner in which those signatures were obtained, and the nature of them, may be readily imagined, notwithstanding the senate, or, more properly, Buonaparte, declared, that the 60,000 registers had been verified and scrupulously examined.

Too wise to expose himself unnecessarily to a second appeal to the people, Buonaparte sought the attainment of the crown by more direct and decisive means. He gained over his brother consuls, (the two *figurants*, as they were not inaptly termed), the different generals at the head

of the respective armies; together with Talleyrand, and other principal persons of acknowledged weight in the republick; who were all interested in his success; as the higher they established Buonaparte's power, the more likely they were to secure, as well as further, their own advantages.

The consuls were easily won; Cambaceres,* had he been averse to Buonaparte's elevation, from known circumstances in his private character, could have been instantly held up as a marked object of contempt and detestation; and Le Brun, the third consul, was of little importance. Sieyes—from having endeavoured to tamper with Moreau, and secure a change of government in his favour, prior to Buonaparte's attainment of the consulship, but which Moreau wholly declined, and

* Cambaceres has been said to have proposed the diadem to Buonaparte. If so, it were to obtain farther favours, as he must have known the consul's aim and sentiments.

which Buonaparte could not forget—could be awed by Napoleone's frown: while Talleyrand, the *apostate bishop*, intent on his own interest, and never nice in the means, was as eager to raise the chief cònsul to the throne, as he had been ready to tear down the sacred Redeemer from the cross, and deny his interference for the salvation of mankind. The different generals of consequence, were promised liberal rewards in titles and estates, which were afterward conferred on them, as the subsequent events showed.

All these persons being thus artfully secured, the tribunate and conservative senate became mere *automata in the play*: and when this *state drama* was fully prepared, and the performers were familiar in their parts, the curtain drew up, and this tyrannical exhibition, (which, unfortunately, had too much tragic matter in the composition), was displayed before an astonished world. France was said to

have approved of the performance: but the fixed bayonets of the soldiers, glittering in every department, and mingling among the multitude, prevented the discontented from murmuring.

The consul Cambaceres, as president of the senate, presented the organic senatus consultum to Buonaparte, at St. Cloud, which invested him with the imperial dignity; and, in a speech of most fulsome adulation, “*prayed him to consent, that the organic disposition should be immediately carried into execution, for the glory as well as happiness of the republic.*” Buonaparte, in return, condescendingly accepted “the title which *they* thought necessary for the glory of the nation, and submitted to the sanction of the people the law of hereditary succession.”—“Josephine La Pagerie was then saluted empress, (the senate being graciously admitted to an audience), and the agreeable duty was performed, of offering

to her imperial majesty the homage of its *respect*, and expressions of the *gratitude* of the French."

Future ages will wonder, that a nation which called itself great, could tamely submit to scenes so disgraceful.

The publick had long been prepared to meet and submit to the necessity of this change: pamphlets were published, and industriously distributed, and every device made use of, to inoculate men's minds in favour of ancient prejudices, and reproduce a regard for the exploded system of monarchy, which the French revolution, with so much frenzy and bloodshed, had taken pains to abolish. The two extremes were to meet again; and the excess of democratic liberty and licentiousness was now to terminate in the very utmost height of lawless and despotic power. Plots were formed, and conspiracies created, as will be described hereafter, to render this change more

obviously necessary, by an attempt to prove the state of France insecure under its present form of government.

But the progress which Buonaparte made in this pursuit was gradual, not sudden: the wind, if it may be so denominated, of political alteration, had veered steadily round the compass, as far as regarded France herself, no longer the seat of civil commotion. She felt no hurricane to distress her in those temperately* conducted changes: and Buonaparte, in possession of the helm of the vessel of state, steered whatever course he pleased; and, watching his opportunity to strike the republican flag, proudly hoisted an imperial standard in its stead, in an unblushing display of arbitrary authority in his own favour.

But before Buonaparte had attained

* Temperate, as far as regarded the great mass of the people, though destructive to several individuals.

the highest point which human ambition could reach among the sovereigns of the earth, he had pursued his way with no hesitating mind ;

“ No compunctious visitings of nature
Shook his fell purpose.”

Murder in his most foul shape had been familiar with him : and when he was fully arrayed in the imperial purple, and seated on his throne, fancy may imagine that throne placed over the tombs of the still bleeding victims of his recent ambition ; while incalculable thousands lay mouldering beneath, who had fallen previous sacrifices to the length and continuance of his unrelenting career.

Independent of the vast loss of lives France sustained in the wars in Germany and Italy, (and the immense slaughter of her enemies) ; of 60,000 veteran French

soldiers alone, which had accompanied him to Egypt, or been sent by him to St. Domingo,* not 15,000 were alive!

The pope was now summoned to attend him at Paris, that, through his presence and imposing assistance, the coronation might assume a more splendid appearance.† Yet, even in the midst of this ceremony he displayed an insufferable

* The terrific account of the disasters which befell the inhabitants of St. Domingo, in consequence of Buonaparte's attempt to subjugate that colony by force, under the directions given to General Le Clerc, would occupy no small portion of time in the recital. The bare recollection of these afflictions, considered in the mass, makes the blood curdle with horror!

† When his coronation took place at Paris, his carriage was ostentatiously drawn by cream coloured horses, part of the stud formerly belonging to the king of Great Britain, which he had ordered from Hanover for the especial purpose. This was the little act of a little disposition; the triumph of a narrow mind.

arrogance and vanity : he did not allow the pontiff to place the diadem on his head ; but, hastily seizing it, with his own hands he affixed it on his brows ; and by that act of presumption haughtily claimed to himself the right of wearing it, as solely due to his own merit and fortune ; notwithstanding it was the intrepid and successful conduct of the armies, and the circumstances of the times, which had been the true means of bringing it within his reach.*

The papal allocution, delivered by the pontiff in the secret consistory, on his return to Rome, and which was pub-

* This act of preposterous and overweening pride renders the account given of his conduct at the Luxembourg both natural and convincing. His behaviour at his coronation at Milan was not less remarkable : there too he placed the crown of iron on his head, and with an air of defiance said, in a loud tone of voice, " God gives it to me, wo to those who touch it !"†

† " Dieu me la donne, gare à qui la touche !"

lished by Buonaparte, is the most disgusting statement ever delivered of extreme worldly flattery and abject sacerdotal humiliation and pusillanimity. In this very extraordinary paper the pope gives to the cardinals his reasons for having prosecuted his journey to Paris, "for the purpose," as he states, "of decorating his dear son in Christ, Napoleone, with the ensigns of imperial dignity." He relates "the pleasure which he received at his first interview with the emperor, whose fame had sounded to the extremities of the world; whom God had chosen to restore his true religion in France to its former publicity and splendour! whom he accompanied from Fontainbleau to Paris, where in the most solemn manner were celebrated the consecration and the crowning of the emperor, and that of his dear daughter in Christ, Josephine, his august consort:" and announces to them also the satisfaction which he had

enjoyed in performing the ceremony of baptizing the prince Napoleone, (the nephew of Buonaparte), when the emperor himself, and his august mother, in the most devout manner presented the imperial infant at the consecrated fount.

Unmindful of all these services, and regardless of this flattery, Buonaparte has since stripped the pope of his dominions.*

Neither did his ambition and thirst of sway rest when these ceremonies were over. They knew no bounds: for, not contented with his high and unparalleled exaltation, as emperor of the French, he caused himself with great pomp to be crowned king of Italy at Milan; and then deliberately cast his eyes around, to observe in what quarter he could dispossess kings and other potentates,

* The pope has in some degree redeemed his character by his manly and sensible remonstrance, expressed in language equally dignified and appropriate.

to place his low-born brothers in their seats, causing torrents of blood to flow again for their aggrandizement, or to raise the fortunes of his needy followers, creating titles, dukedoms, and principalities for them, annihilating republics, and erecting them into monarchies.

He sought alliances in marriage for the Beauharnois and la Pagerie families among the houses of the ancient princes of Europe, who submitted to the humiliating connexion from dread of his power. He banished the gallant Moreau to America, whom he had tried by his iniquitous courts, and whom he did not dare to destroy, from the high sense which he knew that the people and the army entertained of his virtuous sense of political honour, as well as from his own jealousy of his military abilities. He infamously commanded it to be reported, what he too well knew to be false, that Pichegru, Villeneuve, and

Wright,* died by their own hands. He had ordered Toussaint L'Ouverture, who surrendered all authority to him at St. Domingo, to be seized with his whole family, in violation of the most solemn treaty, conveyed on board a ship, and sent in irons to France, and they were never

* The unfortunate Captain Wright was an English officer, commanding a British sloop of war. He had been employed by government in landing some emigrants on the shore of La Vendee, was unfortunately captured afterwards from being becalmed, and, when taken, was sent to Paris and confined in the Temple. A more amiable or brave man, and promising officer, never existed. In the Temple he was first interrogated, next examined as a criminal, and then offered rewards, promotion, and rank, to betray the secrets of his country; but, inflexible in honour, he refused every temptation; and the torture was applied, to wring out by force what could not be effected by bribery or fear; but it was applied in vain, and Captain Wright died, Buonaparte says, by *putting a termination to his own existence*. Of Pichegru, Buonaparte was afraid; and the crime of Villeneuve was want of success—Nelson had conquered him!

more heard of: and had murdered the duke d'Enghien,* whom like a savage bird of prey he pounced upon, dragged from a neutral territory, harrassed and insulted

* Many reports have been spread, that Buonaparte has even attempted, by various means, to obtain possession of the person of Louis the Eighteenth; and though the fact has not been proved, it may, nevertheless, be reduced to a certainty, that he would have laid hands on him had it been in his power, from what has been proved of his disposition, in his conduct to the duke d'Enghien. It surely is more than fortunate, it has been a providential interference, considering the events which have since happened, that this respectable character has landed on British ground, where he is safe. Here Buonaparte has no influence; from hence he never will be forced by his dictatorial interference; for, in the patriotism and feeling of the following lines, it may be asked and affirmed by Britain,

“ Shall we, to sooth a tyrant's sway,
The hapless exile here betray,
And from our shores expel him?
There's not a heart with honour fraught,
But swells indignant at the thought,
And so our swords shall tell him.

with every indignity, and put to death by torch light, glutting himself with his blood ; and sent de Caulincourt to St. Petersburg as his ambassador, who had been instrumental in performing part of his execrable commands ; thus insulting, by this contumelious act, the emperor of Russia, who had remonstrated against the atrocity of the deed.

The catastrophe of this unfortunate prince requires a particular recital. It will

Whate'er the stranger's praise or blame,
His sufferings are sufficient claim
For Britons to befriend him ;
Who, 'gainst ungen'rous passion proof,
Respect a foe beneath their roof,
And while he's there defend him."

That Buonaparte had endeavoured to make the Prussian monarch compromise his honour, in an act of disgraceful atrocity, was firmly believed, from the rapid intercourse of couriers which took place at one time between the cabinets of St. Cloud and Berlin. But the Prussian sovereign acted nobly, by a peremptory refusal.

exhibit a “ scene of horror which can hardly be paralleled in the history of the most savage nations, the murder of a young, loyal, and generous prince, against whom no crime was alleged, but that of attachment to his family and unspotted honour, on the bare pretence of being concerned in a plot against Buonaparte’s life. He was seized in the dominions of a neutral power, who had granted him a refuge from the malice of his enemies ; and in that peaceable retreat, where he passed his time between the amusements of the country and the pursuits of knowledge, he was dragged out of his bed at midnight by a troop of soldiers, who thus violated the laws of hospitality, which are respected even by savages. At Strasburg he was interrogated by the prefect and the military commandant, who both declared that they found nothing against him which could affect his life. After a journey of three

hundred miles, day and night without intermission, he was brought to the Temple, which had so long been the gloomy abode of his murdered relations; but there the soldiers received an order to carry him to the castle of Vincennes. During the whole of his journey he was never permitted to sleep; and when he arrived at his last prison, he was thrust, loaded with irons, into an empty room; where, after remaining a few hours stretched upon the floor, his fetters were taken off, and he was conducted into the governor's apartment, to the presence of those who were called his judges; whence, after a mock trial, without either witnesses or jury, he was hurried back again to his miserable chamber, and kept there for twelve hours more. From the moment of his arrest he was not allowed either clean linen, a comb, or a razor. After his sentence, he asked three favours of his murderers, two of which were

partly granted: the first was, to be allowed a priest to attend him in his last moments; this was permitted for an hour: the next was, that a lock of his hair might be sent to a lady whom he named; and the last, that he himself might give the signal when the soldiers were to fire at him: this was positively refused. The clock in the great tower of Vincennes had just struck two when the drum beat to arms, as a signal for execution; and the dismal procession began to move in solemn silence from the castle to the park. A company of grenadiers marched first, then came the guiltless prisoner, faint, languid, and exhausted with fatigue, supported by two soldiers, his hair dishevelled and his person dirty; near him were the officers of the guard, and another company of grenadiers behind. The night was still, dark, and heavy, forming a frightful contrast to the blaze of above sixty

torches which lighted those midnight murderers to their horrid task. When they had arrived at the fatal spot, near the great oak of St. Louis, the youthful hero seemed for a moment to recover all his strength and spirit; he entreated that they might not bind his eyes; and when he heard the language of his assassins, (for they were Italians), he gave God thanks that he was not to be murdered by his countrymen; and having pronounced these emphatic words, "O God! save my king, and deliver my country from the yoke of a foreigner," the fatal signal was given, they fired, and in an instant he was pierced through with balls, and fell lifeless to the ground.*"

* This well related and feelingly written account, is extracted from Burdon's "Life of Buonaparte." Such was his great presence of mind at this awful moment, that, when the soldiers had presented, he desired they would lower their pieces, to be the surer of killing him at once.

That it is easy to have recourse to epithets to express a sense of proper detestation of the crimes of our fellow beings, has been manifested in the language of all nations; and the spirit of invective will ever appear where there is a proper opportunity for exertion: but to praise without cause, or censure without reason, will only expose the party to be condemned for want of judgment, or stigmatized for malevolence. That, strong, very strong epithets have been used in this little performance, and with no sparing hand, is readily admitted: but if a word has been made use of which justice did not demand and truth would not warrant, let it be reprobated in proportion to what it may deserve, though it may have crept inadvertently into the text.

Yet the very bitterness of language, though outstepping the bounds of propriety, would be excused when endeavour-

ing to mark a suitable hatred to so malignant a deed as the murder of the duke d'Enghien. . . . Sensible, himself, of the reprehension it would naturally call forth, a plan had been previously laid to ensnare the British minister at Munich into a correspondence, which was meant to be intercepted, in order that the English government might be charged with an attempt against the chief consul's life ; and, by that means, that all attention might be drawn from his own atrocious act to excite an interest for his fictitious danger. That master-piece of policy was pursued with the same disregard to truth which he had always displayed when it suited his purpose, and which obviously had been intended to prepare the way for his ascending the throne, which he was then aiming at, by an endeavour to persuade the people of France into the belief of the necessity of having an hereditary

monarch, to prevent, in case of his death, the recurrence of past scenes of anarchy.

The audacious suggestion referred to, that bare-faced attack upon Britain, was divulged at a diplomatic entertainment purposely given by Talleyrand; and there brought into play with great stage effect, when the ambassadors and envoys of the different states accredited at Paris, were present, and who were hastily entrapped into a promise of expressing their pointed reprobation of what they were pleased to call an infamous proceeding. The Danish and American ministers showed themselves particularly acrimonious and time-serving in censuring a conduct which had never taken place, admitting that in a great measure to be a fact which they had seen no voucher to establish, and Europe was duped for a time. Those ambassadors ought to have known, that the charge of assassination must have been

untrue; they could not but have been sensible that every act of Buonaparte's life had already, by contrast, thrown an honourable light on the conduct of England and her ministers; and they might too have been equally convinced, that the future deeds of the consul would tend to confirm it; nor had they to wait long to be satisfied. The merciless tyrant, pursuing his bloody course, executed the respectable Palm for daring to promulgate truths; and, not contented with his death, cruelly sold his effects from his widow and six children; not so much to defray the expenses of his trial, as to strike terror in authors and publishers. He was confident that his foul deeds could not bear the glare of day, and was therefore more assiduously attentive to destroy the freedom of the press on the continent, and did wholly destroy it, by means thus relentless and cruel.

The execution of Palm* having produced that desired aim in every city on

* “ At the distance which Providence has kindly placed us from the malignant influence of the unrelenting monster, we can fortunately indulge in speculations on justifiable, honourable enmity, and give a latitude to the generosity of our sentiments; but, had we witnessed the murder of the amiable and enlightened Palm, *and the subsequent seizure of the effects of his widow and six children, to defray the expense of the trial and execution*; had we been present at the plunder of the innocent and unoffending inhabitants of Lubeck, who for three days and three nights had been abandoned to the violence, rapacity, and lust, of a drunken, licentious, unpaid soldiery; or had we been spectators of the unheard of injuries offered to the citizens of Cordova, Bilboa, and other towns in Spain; or had our own towns been exposed to the devastation and brutality of these hordes; or had our own wives and our own daughters been treated like those of the Swiss, the Germans, and the Spaniards; we should not be revolted at any means of vengeance, which our courage, or the sense of our excessive injuries, would prescribe.”—*National Register*, No. 42.

The dread Buonaparte entertained of the effects which Palm's publication might have produced, may be proved by its consequent suppression. An ac-

the continent, and thrown a convenient cloud over his crimes, he then tried to stifle the freedom of the press in England, arrogantly attempting its restraint as one of the proffered conditions of peace. He frantically shut his own ports, and every port he could command, to distress the trade of Britain, whom he could not conquer by arms, destroyed commerce, with that view, wherever he could destroy it, and thus haughtily trampled on the rights of mankind at large.

He had long threatened England, that rock of liberty and protection, with invasion, made extensive preparations for the attack at an enormous charge, took the command of the army destined to subdue her, which was contemptuously

quaintance of the writer endeavoured to obtain a copy from Hamburgh; and the few words of answer which he received from his correspondent, are equal to volumes:—" *The very inquiry after this book would subject my life to immediate forfeiture.*"

and insultingly called "The Army of England," (safely encamped on an opposite height); but he never had courage to approach her shores; and England, instead, sought him in every accessible point, wherever she thought he could be found: and it will not easily be forgotten by him, that she waited for him at his sea-ports, even amidst the storms and tempests of winter, pursued him across the ocean, met him at the Nile, at Malta, in Syria, in Egypt, in the bay of Biscay, at Trafalgar, off Rochfort, on the plains of Maida, and at Vimiera!

Portugal had long been tributary to him, to purchase a feverish neutrality, and Spain was his constant ally; but in what way did he regard those venerable monarchies? He kept them, (to use a familiar, forcible, but not an elegant figure of speech), "like an apple in the jaw, first mouthed, last swallowed;" for though he was fed by the abundant milk

of their riches, he meditated the annihilation of their dynasty while they were yielding him support.

It has been the undeviating mode of Buonaparte, adopting the system of French republican artifice, to make the people of every state the means through which their governments were to be attacked. Whenever he found a nation tranquil, and by no means disposed to join with him in the attainment of his ends, he conjured up, by bribery and every indirect means, a small number of turbulent persons to complain of their rulers and their situation, and the voices of the few were immediately stated to be the irresistible appeal of the people, anxious to be freed from their sufferings, praying for and seeking redress at his hands. When a whole nation rose to resist his interference, when every rank and description of men, from the highest and most enlightened to the lowest and most humble

of the community, deprecated French interference, and stood forth to assert their independence; they were rebels, slaves to despotism and superstition, and influenced by intriguers; and the nation must be subdued, that it might be made happy contrary to its will, regenerated in a way dissonant to its feelings and sentiments, and to every avowed sense of congenial opinion. Their kings were to be bound in chains, and their nobles in fetters of iron; and a new dynasty was to be introduced, as the only means to make the people worthy of distinction, and the nation be mentioned with honour: and whence was the new dynasty to rise? from the pure blood of the humane and high-born Buonaparte family, to whom kingdoms and people were to be transferred by a stroke of the pen, as if the world were his estate, and the inhabitants the cattle that stocked it.

With this view, and to further his plans, he ordered Junot to Portugal, that very Junot who had been with him at Toulon, when his heart beat with joy that his feet were inundated with blood; and who was with him also in the sanguinary affair of the Sections at Paris, (a fit instrument to execute every command which might be entrusted to him, whatever might be its complexion); and he sent him to take possession of Lisbon, and to seize the prince regent and royal family, should they remain. But their timely departure for the Brazils prevented that disgrace, and the indignity of their dethronement, though Portugal remained at the mercy of the marauding army, and felt the effect of its desolating power. Disappointed in that chief part of the attempt, he next turned his thoughts on Spain, which he had long contemplated the possession of; since at the very time that Spain had been induced to send her

troops to the North, and he had marched his own forces into her territory, to garrison her cities, it could not but be evident, that he was at that moment stretching one hand towards the crown, as if he had said, with his *compeer* Macbeth, "Come, let me clutch thee!" Pursuing his destructive course in defiance of all moral principle and public virtue, as well as in dereliction of every sentiment which should distinguish cultivated nature from the savage, he sowed dissension between a prince and his father, set the parent against his child, and shamefully compelled a queen mother to disgrace herself. When all these schemes had failed, he put the finishing stroke to his violence, by keeping and securing within the interior of his dominions, that royal family, which, under the pretext of benefiting its subjects by a consultation with him at Bayonne, he had seduced from Madrid, forcing the resignation of the Spanish

kingdom from their hands, and threatening the Prince of Asturias, whom the voice of the whole nation had raised to the throne under the title of Ferdinand the Seventh, *with death*,* if he hesitated to resign the sceptre to his disposal.

Having gotten the prince into his power, within the territory of France, and resident, in a manner, under the same roof, in what way should he have conducted himself? He,

“ as his host,
Should against the murderer shut the door,
Not bear the knife himself.”

In former times, when mankind were not so enlightened as at the present æra, the world was yet unsettled, and civilized society less respected and understood; it is not to be wondered, that, in search of new pastures for their flocks, and

* Prince! il faut opter entre la cession et la mort!

strong fastnesses for their safety, nations should make war against nations for their security and sustenance, acts of the greatest violence should be committed in a necessary pursuit, and that those leaders or kings should have been most entitled to praise and respect, who benefited a people by their intrepidity and valour, though at the expense of the tribes which fell sacrificed to the contest. But that that man should have claimed respect for an instant, (who with a sword in one hand and a torch in the other, parading the world like a Colossus, in search of victims to his pride and inexhaustible barbarity, at a period deemed the most enlightened since the creation of mankind, when the laws of nations are defined, and the rights of society comprehended), and that his successes should palliate his offences in some men's minds, almost outstrips the bounds of human comprehension. Hea-

ven, whose ways are inscrutable, has permitted these scenes of hideous atrocity hitherto to have gone unpunished, and mankind must bow to the dispensations of Providence: but the time may not be far off, when the author of all this evil may meet his deserved punishment. “ Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther,” was the fiat of the Almighty, when he set bounds to the devastation of the deluge: and his interposing arm may be now fixing the seal of his indignation and restraint on Buonaparte’s iniquity and usurpations.*

* That Buonaparte has avowed himself an *usurper*, is on record, by the attempt he made to induce the Count de Lille, (Louis the Eighteenth), to surrender his long hereditary right to the crown of France; offering him, in return, an indemnity for the sacrifice that he would make.

Had France unanimously joined in the elevation of Buonaparte, the right of the Count de Lille would have vanished, and the opprobrious appellation of usurper

Could a solitary instance have been discovered, which would have allowed one virtue only to be placed in a con-

would not have haunted the disturbed mind of Napoleon. He was sensible that this was not the case, and he therefore tried to obtain a nominal right by bribery, vainly hoping that the Count de Lille's unsettled and harassed situation would induce him to accept the degrading offer. When the president, de Meyer of Berlin, had waited on him, charged by the Prussian monarch with the insulting commission: "He could not pretend to know," was the Count de Lille's answer, in the dignified language of his noble refusal, "what might be the intention of the Almighty respecting his race and himself, but he was well apprized of the obligation imposed upon him by the rank to which he was pleased he should be born; that, as a Christian, he would continue to fulfil this obligation to his latest breath; as a descendant of St. Louis, endeavour to imitate his example, by respecting himself even in captivity; and, as a successor of Francis the First, at least aspire to say with him, 'we have lost every thing but our honour.'"

He has also confessed the cruel nature of his character, (unmasking himself in that point of view with as

spicuous light in honour of Buonaparte, it would not have been withholden. But it is not his affected liberality of expres-

much clearness as he confessed, by the above recited act, his title to rule in France inferior to that of the Count de Lille), and by a developement equally plain; establishing, by his own expression, that he never hesitates to shed blood, of whatever description, when it suits his interest or ambition. Thus, when Buonaparte had assumed the title of chief consul, and banished Barras to his estate, he took care to remind him of what nature was his temper, which he could not but have been convinced Barras well knew, from his having been an eye-witness of his unrelenting conduct on several public occasions, as well as from private occurrences. He reminded him of it, in order that he might not only deem himself fortunate in escaping death at the present moment, by an unexpected instance of lenity, but to impress on his mind how much his future safety depended on an abject submission to the consul's will. "Barras," said Buonaparte, in significant language, "must know that I am not fond of blood!"* The ex-director believed him in the way Buonaparte intended he should

* Barras doit savoir que je n'aime pas le sang!

sion in favour of the aged Wurmsur's merits, nor his conduct to him, in leaving him at large after his army had capitulated ; the giving Montecuculi his liberty, whom the chance of war had thrown into his possession, because he was descended from the great Montecuculi ; his strained sentiments of feeling couched in his letter to the widow of Bruyes, whose husband fell in the never-to-be-forgotten battle of the Nile ;* the pardoning of

be believed, took the salutary hint, and remains, by his own quiet conduct, a living monument of Buonaparte's clemency, who would be shocked on any occasion to spill the blood of any man, and especially that of his first patron, who had been so very partially kind to him.

* To prove how little the expressions contained in that letter deserve notice for any sincere principle of humanity, we should bring back to view in what way Buonaparte conducted himself towards that unfortunate officer, the husband of the widow to whom he had been thus *feelingly* writing. He accused him to the directory, and to the world, of being the *obstinate*

several of those who were implicated in the conspiracy against his life, when such as were pardoned were those who had borne most hard in their evidence against Moreau when on his trial, (and which disguised lenity showed his hatred the more conspicuously to that gallant and respectable officer); nor the prostituted word of peace, perpetually in his mouth, with devastation and malice in his heart, that can weigh a grain against the load of his base actions: for, in some characters,

cause of the destruction of the French fleet at Aboukir, by his *disobedience of orders*: thus tarnishing his posthumous character, when he himself had kept him on the coast of Egypt, contrary to the express advice and remonstrance of the admiral! It was owing to Buonaparte alone, and England has to thank him for a tenacity of opinion, which in this instance gave her so glorious an opportunity of proving her unconquerable valour, in that proud display of undaunted intrepidity, which was crowned with the triumph of complete success!

words are but wind, and tears are only water.—“Why was he forbidden to weep,” was his expression on the death of Desaix, the expression of a man who never dropt a tear over the misfortunes of mankind in fifteen years of unrelenting progress in the barbarous destruction of thousands upon thousands of his own species.

It is completely evident, from every step in his conduct, that peace with Buonaparte is invariably a deceitful cessation from arms for his own advantage, and that he only requires peace for a season, that he may gain time to meditate new mischief, and effect it. Even while he was negotiating peace with England, he seized the dominion over Italy, deaf to British remonstrance, and indifferent to the consequences; and the very next day after peace had been signed, as if to insult her, he deprived the Prince of Orange of all claim to the

stadtholdership of Holland, sent commissaries to all the principal sea-ports in Great Britain and Ireland, to learn, by every possible information, in what way the united kingdoms might be attacked to the best advantage; and, during the whole time of peace, continued to accuse and calumniate Great Britain, and endeavour to dictate to its government in the way he was accustomed to conduct himself with haughtiness to the subdued nations on the continent, till her patience was exhausted, and she was compelled to go to war, to maintain her dignity and independence. This Buonaparte must have wished, that the odium of the measure, to those who did not know the aggression which England had received, might be removed from himself.—He stript the pope of his temporal dominions because he maintained peace, and would not join his forces to assist him in the destruction

of mankind. He compelled Spain to enter into an offensive and defensive alliance with him; and by that means forced her into war contrary to her wishes and interest, and subsequently made war against her himself, because she would not receive a new sovereign from his hands : he carried war into Egypt, when the porte was in profound peace with France : he kept peace with Portugal only to rob her by subsidies, till he could safely attack her, and seize upon her dominions : he forced Russia to make war with England and Sweden ; and he broke peace at different times with every part of the world where he could extend his armies in search of fresh plunder and new conquests :—and this is the man who talks of peace ! “ As for himself,” (said the hypocrite Buonaparte, in a letter which he addressed to the arch-duke Charles at Vienna, and, from his whole conduct, it is hypocrisy in the extreme),

“if the overture which he had the honour to make to him could save the life of a single man, he should pride himself more upon the civic crown, which his conscience would tell him he should have deserved, than upon the melancholy glory arising from military success.” But the world is become too wise to be longer blinded by his artifices.

Nothing like disinterested benevolence or generosity has been ever mentioned of him, even by his admirers; nor has any thing truly great ever attached to him, if greatness is to be estimated by the qualities of the mind, which do honour to human nature. The retaining the English, who had visited France in the time of profound peace, and who had remained there under the faith of his declaration, that they would not be molested, thus violating the laws of hospitality, betrayed a littleness, the reverse of every thing that was noble and praise-

worthy: and the implacable resentment shown to the Duke of Brunswick, in not allowing his remains to be buried in the vault of his ancestors, evinced a mean spirit of impotent revenge, which could not but disgrace himself, while it the more endeared and exalted the duke's character. The lion wars not with the dead; but Buonaparte refused the rights of sepulture to an amiable and lamented prince, who died of the wounds he received when bravely opposing him in the field of glory. Neither is gratitude a component part of his nature. Barras and others, and even Lucien Buonaparte, without whose protecting arm he would not have been at this moment in his high situation, are kept removed from his presence. His conduct to Barras may admit of some apology, as his presence might not be perfectly pleasant at the court of St. Cloud! But these, compared with others, are venial transgressions, and, as such, are

scarce deserving to be introduced among his more glaring offences. He had shown throughout his campaigns a thorough contempt of all decent regard for the sex and virtuous principle of honourable manhood, by allowing his troops, in innumerable instances, to disgrace themselves, the nation they belonged to, and their commanders, and commit outrages of the most savage barbarity; and where husbands, brothers, lovers, fathers, were often compelled to be witnesses to the foulest deeds; thus having misery upon misery heaped upon them of the most heart-rending description. He authorized the pillage of private property, stripped states of their public treasures, archives of their records, arsenals of their military stores, docks and harbours of their ships; took away by force, through the plenitude of his power and the ambitious principles of his proud disposition, the noblest works of the ancients, in bronzes, marbles, coins, and gems,

which had for centuries been the boast of those cities to which they belonged; seized valuable jewels wherever he could lay his hands on them, robbed libraries of their venerated and matchless manuscripts, galleries and altars of their inestimable pictures, and communion-tables of their pix and chalices, defiled churches, convents, and monasteries, insulted the ministers of religion, levied endless contributions to the ruin of the people, sanctioned free booty, and gave free quarters!

It is not violating the general integrity of truth to remark, that murders, robberies, massacres, perfidy, sacrilege, and even forgery, follow his train, and present themselves in every quarter where his baneful influence spreads. Spain and Portugal, lacerated and groaning under their late accumulated oppressions, and bleeding at every pore, prove it. Prussia, Poland, Hesse, Genoa, Florence,

Naples, Venice, Rome,* and Holland, feel it, as well as other fallen states; and the

* The revolution brought about by Joseph Buonaparte at Rome, and all the subsequent consequences attending its progress, as well as the treatment received by Pius VI. a pontiff no less venerable for character than to be pitied for the indignities and cruelties offered him at the advanced age of 82, are accurately described by Adolphus in his history of France.—“ During 23 years Pius VI. had exercised, in a blameless manner, the sovereignty which was confided to him, never staining the annals of his reign by edicts of bigotry or acts of persecution, but ruling his own subjects with mildness, and receiving strangers, without distinction of religion, with benevolent munificence and princely hospitality.”

Joseph Buonaparte, the founder of all the mischief which attended him, was rewarded by his *just brother* with a kingdom for his merits; and, in order that Rome might not lose sight of her *great benefactor*, the kingdom of Naples was first chosen for him, as the scene of his exaltation, and the reward of his *humanity*.

A furious law had been issued by the French in Rome, which subjected all men to military execution on the slightest information; and it ought not to be

once free and happy Switzerland but too unfortunately attests it; who, forgetting what was due to herself and her former character, fatally “ bowed when she should have armed, and negotiated when she should have been fighting.”* These

unobserved, that “ under the *papal government*, called in that bloody edict the *ancient tyranny*, there had scarcely been, in the whole pontificate of Pius VI. a *single execution*. The people saw, instead, their streets strewed with carcasses, and their lives endangered by the utterance of a word; and must have regretted the blessings of that ancient system, and deplored the revolution which enabled their murderers to term it a tyranny.”

* It must be owned, that the severe stroke which was first given to the liberties of Switzerland, took place before Buonaparte obtained sovereign rule, either as Consul or Emperor; and the savage manner in which her first subjugation was accomplished, is not attributable to him. But still Buonaparte is the oppressor of Switzerland in the constitution which he has since dictated to her at the point of the sword; for though he has accommodated her in some little degree, with a reference to her ancient habits, she is

nations were his friends; but his embrace of friendship is invariably the grasp of death; and, like the Siroc wind, he breathes only for destruction.

If any nation can more deserve than another, the present humbled situation to which it has been reduced by him, that nation is Prussia, who had every means in her power to have opposed France with success, and aided the general cause; and had she timely united herself with other armies, her preponderating weight would have had the greatest effect. But “aloof in careless apathy she stood;” and not only suffered the surrounding states to

subject to his capricious will, and is the slave of his arbitrary power. His address to the Helvetians on that occasion, has been properly described as “the *ne plus ultra* of insolence, arrogance, deceit, blasphemy, and perfidy. When tyrants talk of public happiness, it is the lion in the skin of the lamb, the crocodile alluring to destroy, the wolf in the sheep’s garments.” It is, indeed, the pattern of all arrogance, and insulting cruelty and despotism.

be ruined, but, by that passiveness, aided their downfall. Her presumption, at last, most unhappily for herself, as well as for Europe, was equal to the misconduct of her peaceable demeanour: she trusted her fate to the event of a single battle, without the precaution of a rallying point, or a plan laid for the securing a retreat; and, even contrary to the advice of the intelligent Duke of Brunswick, commenced the fatal battle of Jena in a thick mist, before she could see the numbers of the enemy, or could ascertain his plans. The conduct of the Emperor Paul, of Russia, also, by withdrawing from the confederacy, paved the way for the battle of Friedland, and the humiliation of his son the Emperor Alexander.* The

* It is afflicting to consider the subservient state to which the Emperor of Russia has suffered himself to be reduced; who, instead of catching the continued flame of public patriotism from the king of Sweden, with whom he was once embarked in the same ho-

Swedish monarch, Gustavus Adolphus, on the other hand, the worthy descendant of the great Gustavus, inheriting his

nourable cause of freeing Europe from tyranny, has marched his armies with the view to overwhelm his recent ally, and who is now fighting the battles of Buonaparte at his own charge, and to the disparagement of his former proceedings. The dignified conduct which this monarch pursued when the infringement of a neutral territory took place, and the consequent seizure of the person of the Duc d'Enghien, merited the highest praise. The notes which were presented by the Russian charge d'affaires at Paris, were replete with good sense and moderation: in alliance with firmness, they spoke truth with candour in the becoming language of a sovereign, and will remain an incontestable proof of their wisdom. The answers of the French minister were illusory and insolent, and sealed their own condemnation of Buonaparte's conduct. These state papers must live in the memory of every one who has once perused them; and it cannot but be regretted, even for his own sake, that the Russian monarch has made his vast empire a participator in the atrocities of an usurper, and is ready to attend in person wherever the tyrant chooses to appoint a meeting.

virtues, valour, and firmness, unawed by numbers, and regardless of Buonaparte's threats, has evinced a conduct that beggars praise in the attempt to describe his undaunted conduct. The degraded situation of the rest of the continent testifies to Sweden the glory and advantage of his reign. Whatever fate awaits this gallant sovereign, he will live with glory or succumb with honour.

It has been the frequent fate of an overweening cunning, to destroy itself through those very means by which it insidiously sought to accomplish its end: and the summoning the Spanish junta to Bayonne, may prove the warrant of emancipation to Spain, though it has led to the present captivity of her sovereign; and Buonaparte may be foiled in his great attempt; for, "instead of finding weak men, convenient to the designs of his mercenary ambition, he was met by ministers incorrupt, grandes worthy of their rank,

and representatives who were faithful defenders of the interest and honour of their country.”*

The official statement or exposition, published at Madrid, by Don Pedro de Cevallos, of which the foregoing passage is a part, makes known to the whole world the base means resorted to by Buonaparte to seize the Spanish king, and subjugate a great and generous nation. This paper, of itself, will stand a lasting monument of his crimes, and hand him down to posterity with marked ignominy.

In a quarter where he least expected it, and imagined wholly unprepared to interrupt his progress, he found, for the first time, a nation united in its defence.

Unlike a disjointed government, as he looked for, brought about by his artifices, “ he saw a central power formed

* Don Pedro de Cevallos’ Exposition.

and acknowledged by all. The great car of state of a gallant people, determined to be free, moving upon one axle, vehemently and powerfully forcing its way to crush all his pretensions and the hopes of his iniquity.”*

* Important events are at this instant taking place, and the world must be tremblingly anxious for the result. The imposing attitude in which Spain had placed herself, and her first successes, occasioned the insertion of these passages from Don Pedro de Cevallos' Exposition ; and whatever fate may await this insulted kingdom, it will not lessen the propriety with which they are now introduced. At the very moment when this note is penning, who can say whether losses or victories are attending the cause of humanity and justice, as Buonaparte is to be alike feared for ability and cunning ! In his character there are the greatest contradictions : at one moment he appears a dwarf, at another a giant, in mind ; and, as long as he has the energies of the French at his command, he may be as terrific as ever ; “ for nothing stops the career of the French, neither superstition, nor religion, nor compassion. Honour and necessity are their sole deities, and thus they proceed over the corpses of hundreds

Happy would it be for mankind, should the frightful illusion be past, the apathy of nations be over, and Spain and Portugal freed from his talons. Their sufferings and their cause plead for them ; and what may not Spanish and Portuguese patriotism and valour accomplish ; venerating their monarchs, influenced by the devout enthusiasm of religion, and seconded by the exertions of British assistance and her alliance? The world

of thousands from victory to victory." But this is only accomplished by dint of numbers, and tiring out their enemies through the means of repeated attacks, as well as by generalship, destroying their opposers by physical strength, not beating them by superiority of valour. They must be met in their own way to be conquered ; opposed to equal numbers, there is nothing frightful in their appearance, nor to be apprehended in the consequence. Should Spain move forward in one mass, with all the advantage of being on her own territory, she may tread down her oppressor in defiance of his boasted numbers. God grant this may happen ! and who will not say, Amen ?

has already seen it. Should this gallant and persecuted nation fortunately and deservedly succeed, the great tyrant will tremble on his usurped throne; the dazzling lustre of his career will no longer fascinate; the spell will be broken. Like the ephemeral splendour of an ascending rocket, which rises but to be destroyed by the fury of its own efforts, he will be hastening to decay, not as the bright and harmless exhalation of the evening, seen with pleasure, and regarded with admiration while it lasts, but as the self-blackened and unrespected appendage to the rocket, precipitated into darkness.

These would be fair grounds for hope, and what every generous mind must wish to see realized; but the struggle is not over; the snake was only repulsed—wounded, not killed; and he lay recoiled, solely to imbibe fresh venom, and to return to the attack with accumulated strength and fury. It is not in his na-

ture to forgive, and his revenge is equal to his ambition; this Spain must know, and be upon her utmost guard. The spear of Ithuriel made Satan start up in his own shape: Buonaparte has long unmasked himself.

But Buonaparte has had his admirers, been respected for his abilities, and regarded for his worldly wisdom. Let it be so; ample justice shall be done to him. Cæsar shall have rendered unto him what to Cæsar is due; he shall be allowed to congratulate himself like his prototype Richard of Gloster,* on his high exaltation,

* The parallel does not hold good in every instance; for Anne, the wife of Richard, died, though by what means is not exactly ascertained. Josephine, the present Empress, lives; *nor has she yet been forcibly divorced, like the virtuous and shamefully forsaken wife of Jerome Buonaparte.* Had the amiable princess, the daughter of Louis the Sixteenth, unfortunately for herself, remained in France and in Buonaparte's power, his ambition and security might have prompted him to have said, that "ill luck would betide him till

as the work of his own hands, and, pluming himself, “ that by talents formed for command, he has obtained an empire over his fellow-creatures, and assumed a power greater than the revolution had destroyed ;” and reasoning on his situation as Richard did, shall gloomily exclaim, in the eloquent and self-accusing language of the bard, and in the same tone of inquietude—

“ The Crown !—

“ Will they not say, that to possess the Crown

“ Nor laws divine nor human stopt my way ?”

and then looking round him with complacent satisfaction, and stifling his conscience in his pride, exultingly cry out—

he slept in her bed-chamber ;” and then what would have been the fate of Josephine ? But the great foe of mankind need not be painted blacker than he is. Had the Duchess d’Angouleme, indeed, unhappily been in his power, she surely would have endured a painful death, rather than have submitted to so ignominious and horrid an alliance.

“ Well! let them say it!

“ They can but say I had the Crown;

“ I was not fool as well as villain :”

this he may do, and after this manner he may console himself; but let him have recourse to those sacred scriptures, which every act of his life has proved that he has despised, and there he will find it written to his shame and his sorrow, (for it is not his mockery of religion, his affected return from Mahometanism to Christianity, that can alter the fact or his condition), “ THE FOOL HATH SAID IN HIS HEART THERE IS NO GOD.”

That Buonaparte's brilliant career had blinded France and Europe, must be confessed.* The very circumstance of the elevation of a young adventurer to be at

* The writer is indebted for some hints in a few of the following pages, to the author of a well-written pamphlet recently published, entitled “ Public Spirit,” which forcibly displays Buonaparte's conduct and principles towards England in clear and persuasive language.

the head of her powerful government, and the blaze of his successful military achievements, were alike calculated to excite her wonder. But those events, taken abstractedly, are not a decisive proof of greatness or merit. It is true, that splendid heroism astonishes; for whatever exceeds our expectations, or takes us by surprise out of the beaten path of custom, is for a moment dazzling to our reason. Yet this degree of surprise, whatever may be the seducing cause, must give way to clear and calm reflection. Then must prepossessions in his favour be fortified by reason and judgment, or he must stand condemned as inadequate to the means of maintaining a positive good, or pursuing a great and solid end.

France, naturally prone to vain fancy, and to proclaim her power as tenfold greater than the too great share which she really possesses will admit, has had

particular recourse to that species of imposing awe, which she found a successful assistant to her gigantic schemes. Her present ruler could not but observe, that the plan was admirably adapted to his views, and experienced no difficulty in transferring to his own person all the ideas of superiority which France had arrogated to herself over other nations. Concordant with that cunning aim, the victories and power of France are now attributable solely to the talents and fortune of her invincible emperor. France lends herself to be the echo of this egotism, even to the extreme bombast of extravagant representation ! A people who had pretended to direct to their special benefit the successive revolutions which their country has been afflicted with during a length of years, while they were, in fact, submitting to a constantly increasing degree of slavery, only in a new form, and who have proved consistent in their

conduct when they abandoned their fame to this ambitious stranger of desperate principles!

But to estimate the character and temper of Buonaparte properly, he should be judged by comparison; and the nobly distinguishing epithet which constitutes the concluding expression in the compound name of Char'-le-magne, which was bestowed on that prince by the admiring age in which he lived, and which succeeding times have ratified and confirmed, Buonaparte has vainly assumed!* He

* The flatterers of Buonaparte, who have endeavoured to give him a false consequence, by comparing him with Charlemagne, should be reminded, that he is as unlike Charlemagne in form as in temper and character; the only comparison that can be made between them, is, that they were equally active and enterprising, equally successful in arms and strong in constitution. Charlemagne was humane and generous, and exercised mercy and compassion, as far as was consistent with justice and wise policy. As a mo-

stands not singular in this self-pretension: many monarchs have been able to raise around themselves the flattery of the enchanting sound; but the breath of Fame has refused to sully her trumpet by re-

narch, there is no doubt that he shed much blood; but in every case where he engaged in war he seems to have done it from a sense of duty, though it cannot be denied that he was ambitious. In his Italian wars, he was called upon to defend the church and religion; and in Spain he was invited to be the protector of the oppressed, and a barrier against the infidels. In Aquitaine, Bavaria, and Saxony, his severities were owing to the turbulence of the people or their princes; and though this does not justify that part of his conduct, it alleviates the acrimony with which some writers have charged his proceedings. He appears, through his whole life, to have been pious and devout, according to the sense of religion in those days; and his moral conduct corresponded with his religious principles. His manners were obliging and affable, and gave a double value to all that he said and did.

“Ranken’s History of France,” when summing up the character of Charlemagne, supplied the matter for this note.

peating the prostituted term. Leaving the astonished world to form its estimate of Buonaparte's deeds, by which he claims such arrogant pretensions; waiting till that event shall have taken place, let it, in the interim, be remembered, that Charles, grandson of Charlemagne, whose courtiers had been instructed to flatter him with the same title, was never acknowledged in his own time, nor in after-ages, but by the contemptuous appellation of Charles the Bald: a title equally consonant to his outward semblance as to the limits of his understanding. Buonaparte may have no physical imperfections, like Charles, which mark his form, except that his cold complexion savours of the temper of his heart; he may even be admired, instead, for the cautious manner in which, avoiding domestic assassination, (of which he must live perpetually in dread), he flies, with persevering activity, to camps and battles, to attain new successes; maintain

his name, and support his deceitful title : but has he not, after all, his distinguishing characteristics in the littlenesses of his mind, the poverty of his general genius, and the vindictive cruelty of his temper ?*

* In recurring to positive facts, which are in general so difficult to be found, from whence Buonaparte's character can be properly appreciated, the mind must naturally dwell with confidence on the dispatches of Captain (now Admiral) Sir William Sidney Smith, a commander of great activity, zeal, enterprise, and intelligence. That officer, in defending d'Acre, was opposed to him during two months ; had better opportunities of diving into his character and principles, than any other Englishman ; fought him, in a manner, foot to foot, and hand to hand, and for a longer period than any other recorded act, which Buonaparte has attempted to achieve. Sir Sidney testified his own skill in repelling the enemy, notwithstanding he had but a weak strength to oppose to the powerful and persevering force that assailed him : nor has he done himself less credit as the historian of the siege.

Those two months passed by Buonaparte, prove of what nature are his military ardour and the temper of his mind. " Nothing," Sir Sidney Smith remarks, " but

Should his power be crushed through the resistance of man's arm, will it not then

desperation could induce the enemy to make the sort of attempts they do, to mount a breach practicable only by the means of scaling ladders, under such a fire as we pour in upon them ; and it is impossible to see the lives even of our enemies thus sacrificed, and so much bravery misapplied, without regret." After describing a succession of failures, " The French grenadiers absolutely refused," he says, " to mount the breach any more over the putrid bodies of their unburied companions, sacrificed in former attacks by Buonaparte's precipitation and impatience, which led him to commit such palpable errors as even seamen could take advantage of. He seemed to have no principle of action but that of pressing forward ; and appeared to stick at nothing to attain the object of his ambition ; although it must be evident to every body else, that even if he succeeded to take the town, the fire of the shipping must drive him out of it again in a short time." He afterwards speaks of his cruelty, and mentions what his own soldiers said of him : " The worst of 2000 wounded French soldiers, which embarrassed the march of Buonaparte's army, were embarked in the country vessels, to be conveyed coast-ways ; and being hurried to sea, without seamen to na-

be apparent, that, although he had been put in possession of the most formidable military government which has existed in the universe, he knew not how to exercise it, but to the accomplishment of his ruin, the impoverishment of France, and the aggrandizement of her great and honourable enemy? Strip the eagle of the plumage which encompasses him, and his

vigate them, and the wounded being in want of every necessary, even water and provisions, they steered through the British fleet in full confidence of receiving the succours of humanity, in which they were not disappointed: Their expressions of gratitude to us were mingled with execrations on the name of their general, who, as they said, thus exposed them to peril:" and they declared, " he had broken off intercourse with the English by a *false* and *malicious* assertion, that Sir Sidney had intentionally exposed former prisoners to the infection of the plague!"

Thus then, in these instances, the littlenesses of his mind, the poverty of his general genius, and the vindictive cruelty of his character, are confirmed by proofs.

splendour is gone; but his talons and beak become the more exposed, the frightful instruments of his insatiable ferocity. When Buonaparte descends from his throne by force or by nature, denuded of all those honours which surround his mortal part; what will remain to secure him immortality? HIS CRIMES!

Buonaparte's petulant conduct too, (the very reverse of greatness), his total disregard to all decency of deportment due from one gentleman to another, and want of a dignified behaviour to states and crowned heads, have been exemplified in various instances. At his conference for the definitive treaty with the emperor of Austria's commissioners, he threw his hat among some valuable porcelain in a paroxysm of passion; insulted Lord Whitworth at Paris, at a public levee; and attacked Count Markoff afterwards, in the most opprobrious manner, for his attention to the English ambassador, and the po-

liteness he had shown to him immediately after the then chief consul had exposed himself by his rudeness. Béars are said never to lose their nature ; not even the refinement of education can make them forget their original roughness ; instinct will prevail ; and, to be kept in order, they must be muzzled. In language, Buonaparte has proved himself as violent as in acts, equally savage in both ; and the accompanying specimen constitutes part of his instructions to his generals in La Vendée, wherein he ferociously commanded them, “ to shoot *every royalist that should be found in arms ; also every person liable to suspicion, not sparing either age or sex ; to strike those who negotiate, to kill those who hesitate or resist.*” This passage, together with his letter at Toulon, it is presumed, will be sufficiently convincing. It is true they have not the vulgarity of the *poissarde* in their composition ; but then they have, instead, the gall of the

murderer and the assassin ! Against England his language is more gross ; he rails at her like a *true poissarde* ; and, inebriated with rage that she has had the power and the spirit to oppose him, he vents himself in language as regardless of truth as decency : and the *Moniteurs* are referred to, as the mouth piece, whence flow the milk and honeyed words of his chaste temperament.

The freedom of the press, likewise, that bulwark of English liberty, (a freedom, judiciously restricted only, by salutary laws, from degenerating into licentiousness, which equally supports the dignity of the throne and maintains the rights of the subject), is wholly unknown in France : and it is to the press, turned only to his own praise, that Buonaparte owes his assumed title of greatness. The press, under his tyrannical management, has been the active engine of oppression and deceit, which has enabled him the more

easily and haughtily to trample on the necks of sovereigns and enslave millions. Restricting every publication from entering those dominions over which he has any authority, that can throw light upon the affairs of Europe or unfold his character; he sends forth the poison of untruths instead, and promulgates falsehoods, which mislead and bewilder the people over the wide extent of the continent. States are kept in awe by the imposture of that language which is engendered by him of his power and resources; and, believing his representations, they become lulled into insignificance and fear. The press, it may be affirmed, accomplishes this; for it accompanies him on his journeys, is with him at his negotiations, and in his cabinet, plants itself equally in the field of battle and the ball-room, attends him to the senate, and constantly precedes him, to point out the path of destruction he intends to pursue. Like the

teeth sown by Cadmus, his presses spring up around him, armed, as it were, to perform the work of mischief and devastation, and are ready to abide his call. This may appear strained language at first sight, but it is not the less accurate. Whenever his plans of spoliation are matured, the press invariably proclaims his tyrannic will, even at the most remote distance.

The freedom of speech also, that "sacred prerogative and unalienable inheritance of rational beings," has been restricted by Buonaparte, under the same severe denunciation with which he has controlled the freedom of the press; liberty of speech being deemed by him, "the promoter of madness and of arrogance, and destructive to all states, as well as social happiness." Even his senate "dares not speak what reason bids it;" for when his hastily composed code of civil laws was laid before it for investigation, and which re-

quired the most serious deliberation ; the *little man*, as he has been denominated, displayed high intemperance where a *great man* would have listened with attentive complacency ; and those members (near two thirds in number) who doubted the propriety of his laws in any one instance, were expelled the senate. The commands of Buonaparte superseded debate, and the benefit of useful communication : “ The times,” he said, “ were not ripe for temperate discussion !”

To such as may deem an expression introduced in this work, derogatory to the character of Buonaparte, which spoke of the “ poverty of his general genius ;” let them call to mind, that “ facts, and fictions, greatness and meanness,” were alike instrumental in raising his colossal throne. Those jugglers delight most, who arrest attention by the ingenuity of their tricks, and whose slights of hand best deceive the spectator. But

the tricks of Buonaparte are frequently too clumsily performed to deceive, and always too mischievous to be admired! By treason, he was made chief consul; by cunning, chief consul for life; and by power and cozenage, elected emperor, not by the aid of superior genius in the irresistible controul of an ascendant mind. To maintain himself in power, or raise himself into further authority, he invariably has had recourse to schemes which he imagined would blind the world, but which were too preposterous in their nature to deceive universally. The poverty of his genius, *in those instances*, like the cruelty of his character, unmasked itself.

His minister of police, for instance, (and in speaking of his ministers we speak of Buonaparte, for they cannot be separated), in the fall of the year 1800, informed him of a conspiracy which he said had been discovered, and which was to strike at his life, as he returned from the

opera. The consul, notwithstanding, went to the public spectacle, and entered his box without showing the slightest signs of apprehension. He must have well known there could be no danger in his going thither, and must have been equally assured that he would be protected from all hazard on his return. To keep up the deception, two of the alleged conspirators were arrested in the passages of the house, who were impeached by Henriot, a man of infamous character, (heretofore a military officer, but cashiered), as being leagued with him to perpetrate the murder.

But who were the accused?—known objects of Buonaparte's hatred. One of them was d'Arena, a Corsican, a man of generous disposition, and eloquent, a former member of the council of five hundred, firmly attached to liberty and justice, and who was the person who had aimed the never-to-be-forgiven blow at

Buonaparte, in the tumult at St. Cloud. The other was Ceracci, an artist, and native of Rome, who had reproached Buonaparte, when he was only a general, for his conduct in degrading Italy, and robbing her of her most valuable treasures. The sole person who appeared against them on their trial, was that self-accused assassin, on whose evidence they were condemned. They were executed in company with common criminals, and Henriot was pardoned !*

* Should it appear extraordinary, that those men should have attended the opera on that evening if they were not conspirators ; it may be readily imagined, on a moment's recollection, that it would be easy to secure their presence by some device or other, even by the means of Henriot, who might have laid a plan for that purpose ; or, if they had not made their appearance on that night, the scheme might have been deferred. Besides, what end could have been attained by these persons in destroying Buonaparte ? The mere murder of the consul would have rendered them no service ; and though d'Arena might have levelled a

Neither did the winding up of this plot rest here; it was made subservient to more extended objects: a decree was enacted by the senate for the deportation of one hundred and thirty persons, denounced by Fouché, who were wholly unknown to d'Arena and Ceracci, but who

blow at him at St. Cloud, when resistance was justifiable, under the circumstance of the then constitution being endeavoured to be overturned by force, not argument; by bayonets, not words; it does not follow that d'Arena would have become a private assassin, a man represented to be generous and noble-minded. He was seized in no overt act, nor described as being prepared with weapons for the purpose, no more than Ceracci. It seems most satisfactory to the writer's mind, that fabricated plots, formed to be *frustrated*, and carefully brought forward in succession to keep the public attention in constant agitation respecting Buonaparte's safety; were adopted principles to beget an interest in his favour, and enable him to hedge himself round with more security and greater power, and prevent real plots from being planned, by showing how easy it was to annihilate these imaginary ones.

were sacrificed to the suspicion and security of the consul. They were execrable characters, in general, who had been chiefly turbulent members of the clubs during the time of the revolution: their fate was therefore unpitied, though the manner in which they were gotten rid of could in no way be justified. When crimes are not defined, retrospective laws can be made, and tyrants rule, what may not be accomplished by cruel and malignant dispositions?

The passiveness of the public on this occasion, and their blindness, encouraged Buonaparte to lose no time in following up his plans for further alarms. But in order that Buonaparte may be properly understood, the various plots which have been said to have aimed at his life, or the safety of his government, should be particularly scrutinized, as they show his progress to the throne, and the schemes through which he ascended it.

At the end of the same year, and following close upon the preceding alarm, a destructive machine was brought forward, which “the most artful and wicked of conspirators” were said to have constructed, and which was contrived to blow up at a short distance from his person, when he was proceeding to a place of public amusement.

On the day when this happened, the minister of police waited on him, to say, that plots were again forming to take away his life; and that the opera house, or the road to it, in this instance, as well as in the former one, was to be the spot where the blow was intended to take effect. The consul having listened to the report, concisely replied, “That is your affair, not mine.” He was then asked, whether, knowing the circumstance, he would still venture to the opera, as he had intended; and his

answer was no less laconic and prompt :
—“ Most certainly !”

Buonaparte must have well known on this occasion too, that there was no danger, and that the answer which he had given, would be blazoned forth in the court paper, as most honourable to his courage.

The whole plan was well arranged, and produced the exactly intended effect, as the sequel, it is presumed, will establish.

The *infernal* machine, (as it was insidiously called, in order, by that expression, to throw the stronger reproach on England, who was declared, with the usual mendacity, to have been the promoter and supporter of this attempt), was named after an engine of destruction which had been invented by Jambelli, an Italian, and long ago put in practice at the siege of Antwerp. It assumed, in this case, the simple form of a water

tub, on wheels, drawn by a single horse, and of that common description by which water is usually conveyed to the inhabitants of Paris. This was filled with balls and combustibles, and was peculiarly adapted to the purpose, as a fusee could be applied through the aperture of the faucet with the surest and speediest effect.

It is universally known that the bursting of a shell can be ascertained to a moment; and the explosion of this machine could have been regulated with equal precision. But no regulation would have availed, that did not embrace the exact instant of the *known* time at which Buonaparte should leave the consular palace; and not from a *supposed* period, which any delay or anticipation in his movements must render ineffectual for the purposes of destruction or of safety. This tub was conveyed to the direct

way* which led from the palace to the opera, and was *there* stationed, *notwithstanding* the minister had informed his master in the morning, that dangers were abroad; and had been reminded by the consul, that the duty of precaution remained with *him*.

Had the machine assumed a shape liable to suspicion, it might have engaged the attention of foot passengers, and the scheme would have been frustrated. When Buonaparte should arrive abreast of this engine, sufficient time could be allowed, by proper management, for the person who was to apply the fusee, as well as for Buonaparte, to have respectively passed beyond the reach of danger before the explosion should take place.

About eight in the evening, on a dark night, in December, Buonaparte's carriage

* The entrance of la rue Nicaise—from la Place du Carousel.

appeared, when his coachman drove past with unusual celerity ; and it was not till the *great man*, as well as all his guards, had completely turned the corner of the next adjoining street,* which branched off at a right angle, that the cask burst with terrific power. The consul *providentially* escaped ! but several innocent lives fell a sacrifice ; to whose fate “ the most wicked and artful of criminals ” paid little attention—their idol was safe !

It has been observed, in support of the belief in the conspiracy, that, from the evening having been damp and rainy, the operation of the fusee was rendered tardy, and that from this fortunate circumstance the consul escaped.

When an opinion is once formed, through the medium of inquiry and reflection, it is difficult to be shaken : and the reported confession of Carbon, (who

* La rue St. Honore.

was said to have been the occasion of a person of the name of St. Regent being arrested, and *who was asserted to have affixed the match*), weighs but little against more stubborn considerations.

The narrative of the transaction, as put forth by Fouche, is more than liable to suspicion; for his whole statement of the conspiracy appears fabulous in the extreme. He reported, that two of the conspirators were taken up, and that, from their confession, the names of the rest were fully ascertained; but none of them have been brought forward. He mentioned, that their plots were developed; that they had begun by robbing the publick funds, forming vain plans against government, projecting schemes of civil war, and for the plundering of diligences; that all their discourses were overheard; that the eyes of the police had been constantly fixed upon them; and that the sole cause why no orders had been pre-

viously issued for their arrest, proceeded from an anxiety to secure the documents necessary for their conviction. This is a curious circumstance, when so many people were frequently tried and convicted merely upon suspicion, and suffered.

He brings down his laboured narrative even to the day of the explosion; relates the means by which the description had been gained of the persons of those who were most deeply implicated in this outrageous and wicked deed; and yet the whole scheme was allowed to take effect on the very evening which was predicted; and the penetrating Argus' eyes of the police were lulled asleep, when they should have been most watchfully awake for the chief consul's safety! Can the declaration of Fouche be consistent then with common sense and veracity?*

* When the late Mr. Fox went to Paris, in search of materials for his proposed history of James the

If the conspiracy had been real, in what situation would Fouché have been placed? He would have stood implicated in the plot, or been charged with the most shameful and criminal neglect, without the shadow of an excuse. Buonaparte's dread of assassination borders almost up-

Second, he was not only introduced to Buonaparte, but dined with him; and at table the consul brought up the subject of the infernal machine, and unequivocally attributed the plot to Mr. Wyndham. Mr. Fox vindicated, with spirit, the honour of his friend from so shameful an aspersion, as well as the reproach on the country at large. But the allusion of Buonaparte to the explosion of the infernal machine forms no argument against the suspicion entertained, that the whole business was a deception; and, indeed, the very circumstance of Buonaparte having so indelicately introduced the subject, the more confirms the entertained notion. It was in character for Buonaparte to keep up the farce: had he disavowed this opinion of England being concerned in the plot, he must equally have disavowed all the other unjust charges which he had so abundantly brought against her in all his manifestoes.

on insanity; and if his minister had suffered him, by inattention and inconceivable carelessness, to have been brought into such imminent hazard, as his very existence to have been at stake, (*and which he ought and could have prevented, if his account is to be believed*); it may easily be imagined, that HE, who had ordered a whole municipality to be shot at Pavia, as a salutary example to Italy, would not have hesitated to have sentenced his minister to death, as a politick act for his own safety, and as an example to such as might be appointed to succeed to so responsible an office.

Secure in what he had written, Fouché was in no danger of being contradicted. He could silence an accused person's tongue, or make it confess whatever he chose to publish; and that unhappy person who might have been unfortunate enough to have doubted or disputed his

statement, would have been consigned to the *oubliettes*, in return for his daring presumption.

The devastation that took place among the houses, which, from their confined and opposite situation, and their height, could not but be greatly damaged, together with the atrocity of the supposed attempt, became an animated field for astonishment and indignation to the good people of Paris : and the consular dignity, *for here the true plot exploded*, was conferred by a grateful senate on Buonaparte for life, with additional privileges and powers, as if the future safety of his person could be secured by the slavish decree.

England, the eternal theme for rancour and abuse, was declared to be the abettor of that pantomimical tragedy, and abused with most acrimonious invective.

But the *great conspiracy*, as it has been called, remains to be described; and a new

and more important tragedy was to be performed, by different means, and with more enlarged views.

Buonaparte could no longer rest contented with those honours which had been heaped upon him, though “Thane of Glamis and of Cawdor;”—chief consul! and then chief consul for life; he was impatiently looking forward to the “all hail hereafter;” the possession of the imperial diadem!

It has been already remarked, that the British minister at Munich had been entrapped into a correspondence, which, while it was to operate to the hoped-for disgrace of his nation; clearly appears to have been designed as the principal engine, by which the French people were to be reduced to complete slavery, and Buonaparte enabled to attain the highest point of his ambition!

It was thought necessary, in furtherance of that project, to throw all *weak*

scruples aside ; and the extermination of Pichegru and Moreau* were respective-

* The shaft of ridicule will annoy little minds far beyond serious offences. Romulus could never brook the contumelious act of his brother Remus, in leaping across his newly constructed walls of Rome ; and Buonaparte could not forgive Moreau, for a reflection cast on his legion of honour. Moreau, one day after dinner, being satisfied with the exertions of his cook, in a sportive, though certainly sarcastic, vein of humour, when applied to the military rewards bestowed by the consul, sent a donation to his servant, under the whimsical appellation of a *saucepan of honour*. So severe a reflection on the sabres and muskets lavishly bestowed by Buonaparte on his armies, sunk deep in his mind. A man who laughs, it has been said, can never be dangerous ; but the smiles of Buonaparte have been represented as the symbol of vindictiveness. Previous to his horrid massacre at Jaffa, when he inspected the whole body of prisoners, with a view to select those belonging to the towns which he intended to attack, an aged janizary had attracted his particular notice : “ Old man,” said Buonaparte to him sharply, “ what brought you here ? ” — “ I must answer that question,” returned the Turk, “ by preferring the same question to you ; and you will no doubt

ly decided upon ; men hateful to Buonaparte, and who were more politically ob-

reply, you came to serve your sultan ; so did I to serve mine." Buonaparte smiled : a person present said to one of the aides-de-camp, " he is saved."—" No," returned the officer, " that smile does not proceed from benevolence, but revenge : mark my words. *The janizary was left in the ranks, and suffered.*"

Buonaparte was not of a disposition to laugh at the pleasantry of Moreau, but he could seek his death when an opportunity was afforded him ! Moreau was obnoxious to him in every point of view : he was brave, amiable, humane, loyal, and honourable. He had rejected the schemes of the Abbé Sieyes, who wished to have placed him at the head of the government, prior to Buonaparte's elevation to the consulship. He had distinguished himself with his armies, for valour, enterprise, and judgment ; and he had shown himself to be endowed with the most enlarged sentiments of humanity. Among other instances of honourable and feeling conduct, he restored some cannon to the Austrians, from which the horses had been unyoked, by order of the Archduke Charles, with the view to apply them to draw the waggons in which the wounded were placed ; " as the preservation of a few pieces of cannon, in the prince's mind, was no object equal to the

noxious to him than Ceracci or d'Arena. The scheme was also to embrace the death of the Duke d'Enghien, as the fatal consequences have too plainly discovered; and as has been fully described.

But, to digress for a moment; when Buonaparte, on his return from one of his Italian campaigns, passed through Switzerland of those poor sufferers." Moreau having heard of the act, said, "he would take possession of no cannon that had been abandoned from such humane motives:" and at Passau, where there was a repository of clothes and provisions, destined for the poor of that city, which fell into the hands of the French, on the retreat of the Austrians to the Trafen; Moreau, on the application of the Archduke, who entreated him to spare it, on account of its destination, wrote back to the Prince, that he never would appropriate to his own use what had been destined for the relief of the indigent; and the clothes and the provisions were distributed among the poor with the utmost attention. A sentence then may be repeated, which has been already introduced in this work:—"War, under Moreau's direction, was no where a scourge, but upon the field of battle."

zerland, he held a conversation with the landlord of an inn, at the delightful village of Faubroun, where he stopped, and to which he had walked at some distance from his carriage, carelessly humming, as he passed along, a celebrated Swiss air,* descriptive of the peaceful beauties of that romantic country. He inquired of him, what taxes were paid by the inhabitants of that district, and in what manner the expenses of government were defrayed? and when he was informed, that the produce of the publick domains supported the charge of magistracy; that the sole outgoings on the land were tythes and a quit-rent; and that the government did great good to the poor, and no harm to the rich: he exclaimed, "These are the happiest people in the world!"—"True," said the innkeeper, in reply to him, "and I wish all people were equally

* Paisible bois.

so.”* Whether Buonaparte remembered the remark, and it rankled in his bosom, those who, like himself, can dive† into the secret thoughts of the heart, can best determine; but his conduct, which does not lie hidden from the world, stands open and apparent: and the happiness of this people, the innocence and tranquillity of their Paradise, was food for his desolating disposition. They became the victims of his ambition and power, by the imposition of an oppressive constitution.

* Those who are unacquainted with the former state of Swiss manners, will imagine this familiarity of the innkeeper to be incompatible with his situation, and not likely to have taken place. But that reply was the effect of simplicity, not of forwardness; the consequence of that noble freedom, where man to man felt himself on a level in conversation, and which was the unassuming characteristic of Helvetic liberty. In what way this amiable people may have since changed, is painful to consider.

† One of the expressions of his proclamations in Egypt, mentioned in page 57.

As the felicity of Switzerland, by contrast, was a reflection on France; so the integrity and honourable characters of Moreau and Pichegru, could not but be a stab to the heart of him who envied their virtues; and, like his attack on Switzerland, he was relentlessly bent on their ruin. The respect which was paid to these men, in the opinion of the world, cast a shade upon Buonaparte. If publick approbation was showered on them, the chief consul could not expect the same cheering distinction.

But let the great conspiracy unfold itself, in a plain unvarnished narration:—

As this deep planned and important transaction was to be the scheme by which the *necessity* of the elevation of Buonaparte to the throne was to be *impressed* on France, it might be expected that the whole business would have been contrived with that extreme caution, which would have laid all suspicion

asleep, that any part of the plot could possibly have been fabricated. But the sunshine of truth soon cleared away the mists of deception; for the inquiry into the actions of those who were accused as the principal conductors of the plan, displayed the weakness of the assertions, that the government was in danger, and that the life of Buonaparte was aimed at.

The title which was given to this plot, namely, *the great conspiracy*, (like that of the water-tub explosion, which had been denominated the conspiracy of the *infernal machine*), was evidently designed, not only to make the danger appear more tremendous, but to throw a more marked odium on England, by the imagined extent of the atrocity of her proceedings, which would be implied by the strength and comprehensiveness of the expression.

The scheme was made to embrace a variety of circumstances, each apparently leading to one point, and all tending to

embrue again the hands of Buonaparte in innocent blood, by the deaths of the Duke d'Enghien, Moreau, Pichegru, and others; and thus render, by those atrocious acts, the attainment of the crown more safe to him in the first instance, as well as more secure in the possession.

On those men the hopes of the royalists and republicans might have depended, to have thwarted Buonaparte's pursuit; or make, whenever an opportunity offered, a diversion against him in favour of their respective causes.

The instant that the plot was to be announced to the world, the work of slaughter was to begin; and, under the form of mock trials, the accused were to suffer. The complying and corrupt senate were ready to fulfil their part, by adopting resolutions, founded on the report of the grand judge respecting the great danger which had impended over their adored chief; whom they addressed, by stating,

“ that the consulship for life, and the power granted him of appointing his successor, were inadequate to the prevention of intrigue at home or abroad; and that no title was more suitable to his glory, and to the dignity of the supreme chief of the French nation, than the title of Emperor!”

Buonaparte assured them, by a gracious message, sent them, in return, after a few days' pause, “ that their address had never ceased to be present in his thoughts, and had been the object of his constant meditation; that many of the institutions of France ought to be improved; to secure the triumph of equality and publick liberty, and preserve to the nation and to the government the double guarantee they were in want of.”

The senate, as if perfectly sensible of the justice of those remarks, and firm in their reliance on Buonaparte's integrity and honour, instantly “ conferred the title of Emperor on the first consul, and establish-

ed the imperial dignity hereditary in his family !”

If these events were not recorded beyond all question of doubt, the mind would shrink from the belief that such scenes of abject humiliation and hypocrisy could have possibly happened ; it would appear like a state romance, fabricated for amusement.

But let it be examined into more minutely, of what complexion was the conspiracy which brought about the distinguished honours which were to be showered upon the head of this foreigner and upstart.

“ Adventurers of the most contemptible class, dissipated young men, prostitutes, and a few common rogues, destitute of money, and unaided by adherents, were declared to have been leagued with great and important characters ; and fictitious and real negociations were artfully blended.” But all the great means

and preparations, which Regnier affirmed to have been collected for the purpose of once more attempting to disturb France and her government, were never unfolded. Every artifice was made use of to bring mankind into the belief, that the danger was imminent, and that the life of Buonaparte was again brought into the utmost hazard. But when the trials were over, what was the result? No proofs were exhibited; nothing that could justify the clamour which had been raised, nor the anxiety which had been expressed. Had there been irrefragable proof, immediate or remote, it was the interest of the French government to have proclaimed it; and they never were sparing when they had it in their power.

Pichegru, one of the principal objects of attack, who had been induced to return clandestinely to Paris, with the view to get his outlawry reversed, was arrested, and strangled in prison; but

that was no evidence of his guilt ! and Moreau was brought before suborned judges ; and, in spite of contradictory depositions, was acquitted of capital offence, though he was doomed to imprisonment, in some degree to satisfy the fears of the chief consul. That sentence of death would have been pronounced against him, if his enemy had dared to take away his life, cannot be questioned : but his name was too loudly repeated in the streets and market-places, and even before the hall of justice, to render the measure safe ; as a popular riot might have proved more fatal to Buonaparte, than the whole fabricated conspiracy, had it been real. Moreau was offered his liberty on condition of banishment. This was a politick act in Buonaparte ; who, by giving him his freedom on those terms, not only removed him from France immediately, but prevented his return. He prudently accepted the offer ; for he could not but

be sensible of the danger of confinement in prisons where Pichegru and Wright had died, where Toussaint Louverture had mysteriously disappeared ; and where so many other victims had been consigned to total oblivion. He departed hastily for Spain, and thence to America.

Georges, with a few loyalists, his adherents, who had also secretly visited Paris, and whom the minister announced as immediately connected with Moreau and Pichegru, were executed on the Place de Grève, to give some colour to the conspiracy. A second report, too, was published by Regnier, the grand judge, in which the name of Mr. Spencer Smith, the British envoy at Stutgard, was joined to that of Mr. Drake, as having been leagued with him in furtherance of the plan to take away the life of the chief consul : but all these complex accounts, and clumsily arranged attestations and transactions, did not satisfy the inhabit-

ants of Paris, that Pichegru and Moreau were traitors, nor that many arrested persons did not suffer in prison, without even the form of trial. It was found necessary to enlighten the citizens; and Murat, the commandant of Paris, issued directions, in general orders, to his aides-de-camp, officers, and non-commissioned officers, of the garrison, as well as to the national guard, to instruct the people, and make them sensible that the reports which had been spread respecting the murder of prisoners were false, and that unquestionable proofs existed of the truth of every circumstance which Regnier had advanced, in relation to the insecurity of France, and the chief consul's great danger.

This was an incontrovertible mode of *enlightening* the world; for it is easy to conceive what must have been the weight of those arguments, which could be enforced by the bayonets of 400,000 soldiers, whom

Buonaparte, could command throughout the extent of the republick !

The result, was the elevation of Buonaparte, in the manner which has already been related. The train being laid, and the match, prepared by intrigue, put to it, *this great conspiracy*, the conspiracy of Buonaparte himself against the republick, *burst before the world, and completely unfolded itself in the splendour of his coronation !*

May not, then, France be appealed to, whether the arrested persons were criminal? and the whole world be asked, with confidence, whether the benevolent and humane English could be engaged in attempting to dip their hands in blood, like Buonaparte, and perpetrate assassination?

Contemplating these events, it seems to require no preternatural agency to render it convincing, that Buonaparte was the concealed author of all these constructed treasons, brought about for his benefit, *not his harm*; to further his ambitious inten-

tions; and enable him, by those pretended plots, to

“ wade through slaughter to a throne,
And shut the gates of mercy on mankind.”

And here it may be remarked, that it has been stated of Buonaparte, by an author who had minutely contemplated his character, that, “ in the beginning of his career, the furious tiger affected moderation; and the slave of ambition, mildness. The road to victory being opened in *Italy*, nor *promise*, nor *treaty*, could protect the weak, perplexed, and discordant princes and republicks of his *native country*,* against spoliation, banishment, and revolution.

“ In 1797, he began to rule, and to press heavily upon the weakly constructed *French state*; and resolutions and hopes, which, till then, had been shrouded in obscurity, brightened in his mind.

* The Genoese state, (to which Corsica had been an appendage), was revolutionized by Buonaparte.

He betrayed symptoms, and made operations, which were not of a *doubtful* appearance, to such as could see. The man who travelled about as a *prince*; and on the Rhine, in the Netherlands, and in Switzerland, caused himself to be received with firing of cannon; the man who every where spoke the language of a master to his servants; who arrogantly represented himself as the sole defender of republicks; who offered his dreadful assistance to the wretches who banished their fellow citizens to Cayenne; and was accessory to the expulsion of those counsellors, who were pointed out as friends of royalty and of the clergy; that enthusiast, who did not open his lips, when ancient republicks were to be overturned, and Switzerland was to be spoliated; should have been sent into banishment for life, when he was wanted no longer as the tool of oppression.* France, instead, nursed

* Since this work went to the press, a copy of "The Spirit of the Times," by Ardnt, the fatal book which

the viper in her bosom, which is now stinging her in every artery, in reward of her kindness.

It has been far from the intention of this work to deny Buonaparte's great abilities: on the contrary, its aim has been to describe, what were the nature of those talents, and in what way exerted.

If men are to be judged by their conduct, the cost Palm of Erlangen his life, has been brought to this country, and that part of it has been translated and published, which possessed most interest to the English reader. The compiler of "Buonaparte Unmasked" could not but be eager to peruse this book, and to reap such benefits as it might afford, to confirm or add to the statements of his performance. A few passages, introduced between inverted commas, are extracts from it; and the reader is referred to the whole pamphlet, for much sound reasoning and curious details. The contents are most severe on Buonaparte's character and conduct; apparently just, and, therefore, the more difficult to have been brooked by him.

In taking up the book for perusal, who can refrain from imagining, that he views it sprinkled with the blood of the unfortunate Palm?

duct, Buonaparte will stand pre-eminent in history, for successfully directing all the powers of his capacious, but unequal as well as unbridled mind, to work mischief, and produce incalculable misery to the world, in furtherance of his own ambitious views.

But *great characters*, guided by manly principles, would never stoop to seek ambition's aim by any other than laudable means : they would turn aside from paths of infamy, and deeds of assassination, with disdain and horror ; for the truly brave are merciful ; and the truly honourable, candid and open.

The flatterers of Buonaparte, who represent him to be all virtue, nobleness, beneficence, generosity, and courage,

“ He, whose *high worth* surpassing paragon,
Could not on *earth* have found one fit for mate,”

not content with comparing their favourite to Charlemagne, have, with inconsi-

derate zeal, gone back to still more remote times, and called forth other distinguished characters, even Julius Cæsar and Alexander, to attend his chariot wheels, and swell his triumph. But how low their hero falls by this ill-judged attempt!

Leaving the Macedonian victor to support his own claims, (confident, that “the blood of” Alexander “can protect itself”), the touchstone of truth may be applied, to mark the faint resemblance that will appear, when Buonaparte is contrasted with Cæsar! *each* trampling on the ruins of a republick, and lording it over a subjugated people: but in this alone their *equal* triumph begins and ceases.

The fame of Julius Cæsar has been handed down to posterity, established by his deeds, not the extravagance of his words. His actions marked his character; and displayed his valour, while they proclaimed his modesty. He always spoke of his enemies with respect.

The fame of Buonaparte stands self-vaunted. Every species of extravagant representation, that can compliment himself, and cast contempt upon his adversaries, is put in practice : but the means defeats the end : the more he lessens the importance and bravery of those whom he combats, the less merit is due to himself.

Julius Cæsar was an accomplished historian, as well as a renowned general. His fame is immortalized by his commentaries. The productions of Buonaparte's pen, by whatever name they may be called, display his arrogance* and vanity, while they record his duplicity and cruelties.

* In one of the published annual statements, or expositions of the state of France, which was delivered before the complacently listening senate, there is the following paragraph, which may be deemed a sample of their general style :

“ Our armies are always deserving of their reputa-

Julius Cæsar, if a modern term may be applied to an ancient character, was a

tion. With the same valour and the same discipline, they have acquired that patience which waits for opportunities without inurmuring, and confide in the prudence and designs of the chief who conducts them. Our soldiers, our officers, learn to govern the element which separates them from England, the grand object of their resentment. Their audacity and address astonish the oldest and most experienced mariners!! Our fleets, by continual manœuvres, lead the way to combats! and, whilst those of our enemies wear out in striving against winds and tempests, ours learn, without destroying themselves, to fight against them!!!”

This passage is such an insult to sense, that a smile must be raised at the expense of a people, who can suffer themselves to be treated like children, in such ridiculous representations of “their great darings.” It has been before observed in this work, that it is impracticable to separate the language of his different ministers from that of Buonaparte; since it cannot but be supposed, that these annual expositions underwent his investigation before they were promulgated. His own proclamations, however, authenticated with his signature, set all decency at defiance. The extracts from such of them as were issued by him

gentleman in manners, conversation, conduct, and mind. Buonaparte, by every

in Egypt, and which are given in this work, tell a plain story, "of fraud, duplicity, blasphemy, and falsehood." The curious reader, to refresh his memory, should turn to the *Moniteurs*, or peruse the state papers in the English Annual Registers, to satisfy himself how weakly Buonaparte supports his claim to greatness: and though what he writes or speaks may have influence, at the moment, on those whom he means to deceive; who are impressed by terror, or blinded by bold assertions; impartial history will brand his name with deserved obloquy, and hold him forth in his true light, as the very reverse of Julius Cæsar: but to compare their names, is the height of folly in Buonaparte's flatterers.

But the reader need not be at the trouble to search for former specimens. The bulletins which Buonaparte is now publishing of the progress of his armies, and his own conduct, in Spain, display this part of his character with unabated effrontery, and set all shame, as usual, at defiance.

Atrocious, indeed, is the language of that man, (who would be compared to great characters), whose pen is as destitute of truth and delicacy, as his heart and mind appear deficient in honour and legitimate valour;

account that has been given of him, is the reverse of every thing which that title indicates, and appears destitute of those nice principles which embellish the true character.

But has he not succeeded, and possessed himself of every thing which he aimed at; gone *beyond* Julius Cæsar; out-ran him in his career; reached the goal which Cæsar never attained; and acquired a crown?—he has!

His stern, merciless mind gained an ascendancy; and fortuitous circumstances, far removed from the common course of events, kept him buoyant on the stream of fortune: “he lorded, when the people were willing to serve; commanded, when he had not to apprehend opposition;

and who betrays himself by his own words, when he says, in speaking of Madrid, “How culpable are they who expose so many peaceful citizens, and so many unfortunate inhabitants of a great capital, to so many misfortunes !!!”

availed himself of his astonishing power, frequently with design, but more frequently without being aware of it, when there was no resistance; and then he gained his point, which he could not have in view when he started. But are we to deem the man, who is impelled by an unknown power within his breast, a wise and safe guide? “ARE WE TO CALL GREAT, WHAT IS LITTLE? BOLD, WHAT IS CRUEL? AND WISE, WHAT IS ARTFUL? Shall we look for moderation in a man who has no measure? He never had a conception of the real dignity of man, nor even the least notion of the civilization and the most sacred relations of Europe: he blindly follows the fierce impulse of his nature; and accident may render foolish what was not foolishly intended!” In a word, he stands a prosperous villain!*

* The reader, on perusing this condensed statement of Buonaparte's career and atrocities, must judge of the propriety of the expression.

The admirers of Buonaparte, who have strenuously endeavoured to uphold his name and palliate his offences, when driven from all those holds on which they usually fasten, rest his defence ultimately on this untenable position, that he has only acted as other conquerors have done before him, or as other men would do, were they placed in the same high situation. And what does that declaration admit? but that other men would be as atrocious as he is; and that he is equally criminal with all the detestable heroes who have gone before him in the great slaughter and oppression of mankind, to exalt their own satanic ambition?

But, to sum up his character and situation in a few words, and in the more animated expressions of a contemporary writer :* “ Corrupt, divide, and terrify, are

* It is not every author who will have the manliness to confess himself to have been in error; but Mr. Bardon, in his second edition of the *Life of Bu-*

the three great pillars of his throne; and on these it may stand for a time; but, without other support, it can never be permanent. Let him array himself in all

naparte, has amply compensated for his first opinion; he has candidly owned, "that he was led away, like many others, by the splendid blaze of his success, his exploits, *and his promises*; but now that time and the possession of power has unmasked him, and reflection had taken place of sudden surprise, he views him as he deserves to be viewed by every lover of liberty and human nature. The real intentions of the man are hostile to their repose;" (for these are also Mr. Burdon's words); "and, instead of being the benevolent pacificator of the universe, it appears that he will have peace only on the terms which he chooses to impose, and that his aim is universal empire." This candid confession was written before Buonaparte had promulgated that it was necessary for France that she should have, and keep, at her disposal, every port, from Constantinople to St. Petersburg, hostile to England; before he had made his irruption into Spain and Portugal; and before he had contemplated the march of his troops to India, through the empire of Persia!

the borrowed splendour of an usurped authority ; let him put on his purple robes, steeped in the blood of innocence ; and his diadem, torn from the brow of a murdered monarch ; let him call himself Emperor of the Gauls, or the French, or of any other slaves he pleases : yet all this will not add one atom to his comfort or security, nor shield him from the contempt of insulted humanity. The worm will still gnaw at his heart, if he has any thing human about him ; his subjects will yield him only constrained submission ; and should Providence permit his destruction, when that is accomplished, the shout of exultation will resound from the frozen territory of Lapland to the thirsty desarts of Arabia !”

THE CONCLUSION.

INDULGENT reader! Buonaparte having now been unmasked in this condensed statement of his career and atrocities, allow a few parting observations to be introduced to your notice.

While it has been the writer's aim to expose, and speak with detestation of, the excess of that tyrannic sway, which now keeps France enthralled by the artifice and power of her blood-stained subjugator; it never has been his intention to advocate, in any degree, the cause of despotism under her former government.

When speaking of the Bastile in mild terms, that engine of terror under the old regime, it was only designed to allude to the liberal treatment which prisoners met with when confined within its

walls, and their mode of liberation, as contrasted with recent occurrences; and not to attempt, in the remotest degree, to justify incarceration at the caprice of kings and ministers.

It is the abuses of the revolution, under all its accumulated horrors, which have been adverted to; and a deep regret expressed, that France did not pursue and obtain what she had the power of accomplishing—her own welfare and happiness, with safety to herself, respect for her sovereign, and tranquillity to the world!

Her king was all beneficence, and ready to adopt any change that would have added glory to the people, and defined and sanctioned their liberties.

If ever there were a monarch too good for the times he lived in, Louis the Sixteenth must be deemed such, whose very virtues contributed to his ruin. The only great blot in his reign, was his consenting (contrary to his own repeatedly expressed

wishes) to make war against England, with the view of stripping her of her American colonies; but that blot was a crime committed against England for the advantage of France, and was a measure which proved fatal in the end to himself, as he paid the full penalty of his reluctantly consenting interference. But his love for his own country was unbounded; and the dread which he had of shedding French blood in civil commotions, even under circumstances of the most aggra-

* It has been always understood, that it was with the utmost difficulty that Louis the Sixteenth could be prevailed upon to enter into that measure; and it was not till the defeat of the English forces at Saratoga, when General Burgoyne surrendered himself with his whole army to the Americans, that the king would consent; and, even then, Count de Vergennes found it a difficult task to bring him to comply with his long-wished-for scheme; so averse was he to make war on an unjust principle, and so little inclined to obtain glory or success for France by perfidious conduct.

vating nature, fostered repeated insurrections ; and his extreme forbearance led him to the scaffold.

That dreadful civil calamities will affect the body politic, and become, without a well-timed and spirited interference, fully as pernicious to social order and substantial happiness ; as physical complaints, suffered to gain an ascendancy, will distract and destroy the human frame ; is too obvious, from past occurrences, to admit of the slightest doubt.

When the revolutionary fever burst forth at Paris, and took complete possession of the disturbed imaginations of the French, instead of skilful advisers stepping forward, to exert themselves in allaying the burning heat, which so furiously raged, innumerable empirics started up in the shape of self-created statesmen and conceited improvers, who employed themselves in administering every baneful incentive that could ferment the acrid hu-

mours which were afloat, and keep the minds of the people wound up to the highest paroxysm of brutal insanity.

As want of rest is universally felt to be one of the great enemies of man, so the continued agitated sittings of the national assembly and of the convention, (awed, as they were, by the clubs, and bullied by the rabble), worked irreparable mischief to the constitution of France. The publick mind was incessantly kept awake, harassed and disturbed, and for year following year.

No repose was given to her; no *pro-rogation* took place in her senates, as in the parliament of England, that SALUTARY INTERVAL, which gives leisure for passions to cool, and time for discretion to supply the place of intemperance and party-prejudice: on the contrary, one continued scene prevailed, of "enormous riot and misrule;" till the revolution, pursued to the excess of every thing that was

ruinous, “ became a voracious monster, greedily devouring itself, and at length grew tired of the work of destruction.”

France sacrificed, in its tremendous progress, not only the most amiable and worthy of her sovereigns, but exterminated the most enlightened of her people; those most celebrated for virtue, science, education, knowledge, sense, and moderation.

Such were the respected qualities of her king, that his very enemies were frequently compelled, irresistibly, to pay tribute to his virtues; and those who came to scoff, may be said to have gone away to pray for him. Hired women, who attended the galleries of the convention, purposely to insult him when he underwent his examinations, were so affected by his demeanour and candid replies, that their execrations dissolved into tears. Even the *murdering Hebert*, who

had taken pains to get himself included in the list of those who were to communicate the decree of sentence of death to him, and who had accomplished this from a savage propensity, that he might triumph over his fallen monarch, declared, “that his words and behaviour were so replete with dignity, nobleness, grace, and greatness, that they overpowered him; and tears of rage moistened his eye-lids. There was in his look and in his manner,” he remarked, “something evidently supernatural; and he strove” (traitor to humanity!) “to restrain his tears, which flowed in spite of him; and he resolved, that that visit should be his last ministerial act about the king’s person.”

Such an account from a character like Hebert, fully equals all the eulogium which those who best knew, loved, valued, and admired their sovereign, could

bestow on him ; for even Sensibility herself could not say any thing more impressive in his favour.

In adverting to the decapitation of this good king, it were impossible not to heave a profound sigh over his misfortunes, as well as at the recollection of the equally hard fate which attended his inhumanly treated immediate relatives, who were so dear to him—the Queen, his daughter, the Princess Elizabeth,* and the Dauphin, whom “ *the nation, great in its beneficence, promised to provide for.*” Their sufferings were most afflicting ; but the indignities offered to the whole royal family, were so gross and unmanly,† from

* Her whole life had been exempt from reproach, and remarkable only for benevolence and piety. Not a single witness was produced at her trial ! Kindness to her orphan nephew was her crime, and she suffered for her affection !

† Without bringing unnecessarily to view, the insults that were offered to the King and family at Ver-

the commencement of the revolution to the time of their confinement and hour

sailles, and during the time they were at the Thuilleries, it will be sufficient to state (for recollection, as well as to support this part of the narrative by facts) the abominable manner in which they were treated when confined in that frightful abode, the Temple. The privations of these cruelly oppressed captives, indeed, were so great, that the King was obliged to borrow changes of linen from his valet de chambre; and the Queen, the Princesses, and Dauphin, were relieved by the feeling attention of the Countess of Sutherland, the present Marchioness of Stafford, who was at Paris, (the Marquis of Stafford, then Earl Gower, being at that time ambassador), and some other ladies, who also contributed to their assistance: but this accommodation was speedily put a stop to. The legislative assembly had ostentatiously decreed 500,000 livres (21,875*l.*) for their expenses, but the king received only 2526 livres (110*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*) from Petion; and his receipt, for that trifling sum, was published by Condorcet, with an insulting comment.

The commissioners on duty at the Temple, who were the very dregs of society, (of which class almost all the persons in power were composed), gave reins to their low, brutal minds, and maltreated these illustrious pri-

of untimely decease, falling, as they did principally, by the axe of the guillotine ;

soners with the utmost wantonness. Turlot declared aloud in their hearing, that “ if the executioner refused to guillotine that execrable family,* he would perform the office himself.” The very centinels were encouraged in acts of insult. They presented arms on the approach of the municipal officers ; but made manœuvres expressive of disrespect, when the royal family came in sight. One of them even chalked on the inside of the king’s chamber door, “ the guillotine is in permanence, and waits for Louis the Sixteenth. The very gaoler, who opened the gates for the family to take the air, puffed volumes of the smoke of tobacco, from his pipe, in their faces, particularly in those of the Queen and Princesses, for the amusement of the national guard ; while the gratified soldiery, in their turn, obstructed the family as they endeavoured to pass them, uttering the grossest witticisms to distress them, or sang revolutionary and indecent songs. When the period allotted for exercise was over, they were ordered to ascend to their apartments, in the most disrespectful tone ; and, when they returned, they generally found that the walls, during their short absence, had been scrawled

* “ Cette sacrée famille.”

or by poison, as in the instance of the Dauphin; that the savage mode through

over with threats and libels; such as, “Madame Veto shall swing.”—“We shall find a way of melting the great hog’s fat.”—“The little wolves must be strangled.” Under a gibbet, to which a figure was suspended, “Louis taking an air bath:” and beneath another figure prostrate to a guillotine,—“Louis expectorating in the bag;” (but in still coarser terms, after a cant expression, intended to describe the starts of blood, which gush in pulsations from the arteries, when the head is struck off); and other instances of shocking ribaldry.

The manner, too, in which the Queen was treated, after the death of the King, was still more dreadful, who was aroused from her bed in the middle of the night, and hurried to the most infamous prison in Paris; her pockets indecently rifled of the few trifles which she possessed; allowed to take with her only a small quantity of linen in a bundle; *refused even the consolation of giving a parting embrace to her son*; and locked up in a cell, eight feet square, to sleep, if she could sleep under her load of affliction, on a thinly covered palliasse; kept two months in this situation; fed on the commonest food; made a property of by the gaoler, who occasionally exhibited her to

which their deaths were accomplished, will remain an eternal stain on the French nation : nor can

“ All great Neptune’s ocean wash the blood
Clean from their hand.”

Infatuated French people ! what is it that they have gained by their ill-con-

the populace for gain ; tried and accused of a crime, which even Robespierre, wicked as he was, expressed his indignation, that it should have been preferred against her ; and at last condemned, and conveyed to execution on an open tumbril, exposed to public scorn, dressed in miserable attire, (squalid from dirtiness and the length of time which it had been worn), and seated with her back to the horses’ heads, to heap every possible indignity upon her. This conduct, together with the behaviour which the poor unhappy Dauphin received, who was placed, first under the tuition of Simon a cobbler, selected for his beastliness, vulgarity, and blasphemy, who boasted, that, in the exercise of his new functions, he not only made his pupil intoxicated with spirits, but compelled his hitherto unpolluted infant tongue to pronounce oaths and obscenities ; and who, at last,

certed and unsuccessful revolution, in the overturning of their government?—

unfortunate child! when committed to the superintendence of guards, (who kept him in a constant state of terror and alarm at all hours, all cleanliness towards his person neglected, and whose very hair matted together, from a want of proper necessaries being allowed him), fell a victim to something more than this savage ill treatment: little doubt remains that he was poisoned: present an aggregate of diabolical cruelty, which has not been surpassed; except that, after the manner of the victims of Buonaparte, they did not undergo, like Captain Wright and others, the application of the torture.

The bitter cup of their misery was sufficiently full without the aid of the excruciating torments, which Buonaparte is so well inclined to inflict on those who unhappily fall within his malicious power.

The crimes of the early part of the revolution, however, were the acts of an infuriated people, broke loose from all restraint, and become a band of assassins, encouraging each other to perform deeds of destruction. A race of furies, who overwhelmed themselves, as well as their country, in one indiscriminate ruin, evidently ignorant of the incalculable mischief which they were blindly accomplishing.

They have brought upon themselves a despotism of the most frightful, degrading, and oppressive nature, in a new

The crimes of Buonaparte are of a far different description; they are the atrocities of an *individual*, perpetrated with his eyes open, and deliberately pursued, with deep thought, and wary, scowling circumspection, in which murder is coolly calculated upon as a necessary means; to feed his pride, aggrandize his family, satiate his revenge, or gratify his monstrous ambition. To this man the world must bow as to another Baal: while his high priests, the generals, and ministers, who surround him, heap the incense of flattery on his altar, to indulge and magnify their *Deity*, deceive mankind, and acquire benefit to themselves.

In contemplating the *past* atrocities of *Buonaparte*, as opposed to the crimes of the *ferocious many*, who preceded him in France in the career of destruction, and sensible that he would not hesitate to sacrifice, unrelentingly, half the population of Spain and Portugal, as well as half the French army, rather than not pursue his *present* ambitious schemes to success, any attempt to justify his conduct and palliate his offences, by a comparison in his favour, would be as ineffectual a task, as to attempt “to turn the sun to ice, with fanning in his face with a peacock’s feather!”

dynasty, which mocks their former despotism to scorn ; and they are now compelled to bend their submissive necks to the galling yoke of an upstart foreigner,* and

* In the Annual Register of 1801, page 284 of the historical part, a character was given of Buonaparte, soon after he was made chief consul, replete with no small share of encomium. Agreeing with the author of that publication in one instance, that Buonaparte's good will to his family has shone forth in no small degree, (but much more conspicuously since that time, as he has even torn down kings from their high elevation, to place his low born brothers in their seats), yet no assent can be given to the various praises that have been lavished upon him in other instances. We cannot conceive, for example, that his sullen, reserved, and inscrutable temper, " wears a moral, grave, and dignified cast," such as he himself only approved of in stage representations ; nor, that " his pleasures are pure, noble, and sublime." He has, doubtless, greatly encouraged the arts and sciences, embellished Paris, formed roads, and effected many publick and useful improvements : but it cannot be conceded, that " his power has been exercised without wanton caprice." There is one extraordinary passage, however, which

needy military adventurer, under whose iron rule of usurped power,

“ Each new morn,
New widows howl, new orphans cry, new sorrows
Strike heaven on the face :”

and what is it that they have lost? All that could have been valuable to them as

stands so singularly opposed to all that has been mentioned in this work, that it is but fair to transcribe it, which speaks of his clemency and cool temper. “ He heard the opinion of every one,” says the author of that historic narrative, “ with patient attention, but viewed every thing with his own eyes, and followed his own judgment. So magnanimous and courageous a spirit could not have been deficient in clemency. The danger was, that he might have carried that divine virtue to the extremity of great imprudence. He yielded, therefore, to the necessity of punishing a small number of the conspirators against his life, and by sending about eighty more, who were either their accomplices, or from whom his life was in danger, to French Guyana.” But, instead of eighty only; one hundred and thirty were known to be deported, and those were supposed to have been far short of the real number.

a nation, in the enjoyment of *perfect freedom, under a limited monarchy*, and a sceptre swayed by a king, who possessed every moral virtue, and religious sentiment, that could adorn society and shed lustre on the individual and the throne. Humane, (unhappily for himself), even to a fault; just, without ostentation; pious, without bigotry; a warm friend; a kind master; an affectionate brother; the best of husbands; the tenderest, attentive

“ But it would seem,” said the author, in the continuance of his praise, that “ from this view of the conduct of Buonaparte,” (meaning the account which he had written of him), “ that he was born, not only for the good of France, but of mankind:” but here comes the drawback upon this encomium, the reverse of his rich and highly wrought medal; for he subsequently finds himself compelled to say, that “ it soon appeared he was actuated still by the vulgar ambition of domination, whether by the means of arms or political intrigue.”

This is all that could have been required to justify the statements made in this work.

parent; and most benevolent of sovereigns!

Contemplating these events, which have been thus brought together, in a compact view, for general observation and reflection; Britons have reason to reflect on their happiness, and rejoice in the contrast: whose matchless constitution has been preserved, by their own sedate wisdom, and whose venerable king lives,—honoured and revered!

POSTSCRIPT.

AT the instant when this little work was ready to be sent from the press, the safe return is announced, of the remainder of the gallant British army, which so undauntedly fought and conquered at Corunna, under the command of their late lamented chief, General Sir John Moore.

That valuable officer received his death wound on the field of glory, in an action which will be recorded to the latest times, as reflecting the highest honour on himself and the brave band of heroes which served under him. Instead of being driven into the sea, as the vain boaster, Buonaparte, threatened, his harassed army, fatigued with long marches, undergoing every privation, greatly inferior in numbers, but still infinitely superior to them in spirit, forced the enemy from his position, who had begun the attack, repulsed him in every quarter, and secured to themselves the mastership of the field, and the means of retiring to their ships without molesta-

tion. Not a soldier was to be seen daring enough to annoy them for fourteen hours after the battle ; and the whole of the British rear-guard having departed in safety, even to a man, establishes their incontrovertible claim to complete victory. The subdued distant armies of Spain, incapable of joining them, had rendered the retreat of the British troops necessary for a time.

The flattering hope has in some degree failed, which was expressed in the beginning of this work, as well as in other passages, that Spain would be able to shake off the galling chains which the tyrant of the continent had forged to enslave her : but whether her fate be absolutely decided by the events which have taken place, must remain, for the present, a question of painful suspense. The crimes of Buonaparte, however, stand more established by his successes ; and his atrocities wear a more hideous appearance from the result.

Various have been the Proteus' shapes which Buonaparte has assumed, when presenting himself before Spain, in person, or by proxy, adopting whatever form best suited his interest or ambition : whether as the lawgiver, the deceitful peace-maker, or the conqueror.

When Joseph Buonaparte first entered Ma-

drid, his pretensions to the crown were founded on the right of gift from the great *king-maker* of the day ; who, having forced the resignation of the Spanish house of Bourbon at the point of the sword, that midnight murderer presumed to have the power of bestowing it in whatever way his capricious mind might be inclined.

When Buonaparte had taken possession of Madrid himself, after much slaughter, he put on a gentle deportment and peaceable aspect, and invited the inhabitants to swear allegiance to Joseph before the altars of the living God, which he had so often profaned, and present him the crown by right of election ; that they might thereby “ set an example to the provinces, enlighten the people, and make the nation sensible that their existence and prosperity essentially depended upon their having a king and free constitution, favourable to themselves, and hostile only to the egotism and haughty dispositions of the *grandees*,” whom he had, in the first instance, invited to Bayonne, courted, flattered, and cajoled, and whom he now treats with contempt, and threatens with death and confiscation of property !

He next assumed the character and tone of a victor; told the Spaniards, that if persuasion could not induce them to abandon their true king, surrender their country to his grasp, and prostitute their oaths and honour; they should be treated as a conquered nation; their crown annexed to that of France; and they should be governed by his viceroys: but, if they would quietly yield the throne to his brother, “he would make it his pleasing task to conduct himself as a true friend to the nation!”

But why this waste of language? has not the tyrant unmasked himself in the same breath, and said, that “the house of Bourbon can no longer reign in Europe?” Insolent usurper! he would make the same denunciation to the houses of Brunswick and Austria, if it were in his power. Austria must look to herself, who has been ambiguously threatened. Britain can be her own protectress.

Sprung from a mean origin, and uneducated for the exalted situation which he has so unexpectedly reached, Buonaparte is wholly deficient in all those principles of probity with which men of elevated birth and high hereditary expectations are generally inspired; and

which, from their infancy, they are instructed and inclined to display. Expedience* is his only motto ; at once his practice and his shame.

* Expedience, which is too frequently the tyrant's plea, was the renowned Prussian monarch's maxim. But no authority can justify the pursuit of any act which is put in practice solely to suit the purposes of aggrandizement or ambition. Frederick III. of Prussia, was never scrupulous of the means by which he obtained new dominion. Buonaparte seems to have studied his conduct and imitated his proceedings. On the death of the Emperor of Germany, Charles VI. Frederick seized upon Silesia. After a grand masked ball, he set out on this unprincipled expedition. His own words unfolded his motives on that occasion : " the different powers were every where sounding, negotiating, and intriguing, to arrange their parties, and form their alliances ; but the troops of no power were ready, none were provided with magazines, and the king profited by this crisis to execute his GRAND PROJECTS." Buonaparte, after a splendid entertainment given at St. Cloud, set out to subjugate Spain, HIS grand project.

Frederick, too, did not disdain to use every artifice to promote his schemes, and beget an interest in his favour. He accused the house of Austria of having " had recourse to the detestable expedient of employing emissaries, spies, and banditti, to beset him, and even attempt his life : that one of these banditti confessed, that he was obliged to take an oath for that purpose in the Aulic council of war, and in the presence of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, whom his

Great Britain, who has reason to be conscious at all times of her strength, has now, notwith-

Prussian majesty had thought incapable of such unworthy conduct." To this charge, it was replied on the part of the court of Vienna, " that the house of Austria never knew what it was to employ banditti: that the piety of the Queen and the sentiments of the Grand Duke were too well known for any body to believe it of them: that the story of an oath taken by one of these banditti, in the presence of the Grand Duke in the Aulic council of war, was so ill contrived, that it was impossible for it to gain the least credit; and that the imposture of such an avowal, was too evident, to escape the observation and censure of any one, who knew the character of the Aulic council." It is somewhat the more probable, that there was no reality in the design alleged to have been formed against the King of Prussia's person; because, to charge his enemies falsely with evil designs, was perfectly consonant to his maxims of policy. In his " military instructions, too, for the generals of his army," in directing them how to act in neutral countries, he says, " it may not be improper to accuse the enemy of the most pernicious designs against the inhabitants."

To those who may not be inclined to believe, that Buonaparte's accusations against England were fabricated, what has been here stated of Frederick III. may perhaps induce them to alter their opinion; for if a legitimate sovereign, born to monarchy, would adopt such plans; it is not to be wondered at, that an usurper would pursue the

standing Buonaparte's further great successes, more cause than ever to look calmly on his

same insidious steps. This account of Frederick, however, militates against the axiom laid down, that men of elevated birth and hereditary expectations would disdain such acts: but there is no rule without an exception; and the Prussian monarch presents a conspicuous deviation.

Frederick affected great plainness of dress; so does Buonaparte: His court, too, was a military one; but, unlike that of Buonaparte, which assumes unusual splendour, was frugal in the extreme. Equally enterprising and unprincipled as politicians; artful in manœuvres, and alert in operations; equally prepared with armies fit to march, and with the ambition of acquiring renown; their characters on those grounds may be brought into competition. But, as a murderer and assassin, from mean and suspicious motives, Buonaparte stands alone. Though Frederick was ready to commit every act of cruelty, to further his projects in war, he was too magnanimous to execute an author for having libelled him. He even ordered a page to take down a placard against him, wherein his character was very severely treated, and place it lower, that those who passed might more conveniently read it. He wrote with his own hand, under the report of a burgomaster, who had committed a burgher to prison, charged with having blasphemed God, the king, and the magistrate; "that the prisoner has blasphemed God, is a sure proof that he does not know him; *that he has blasphemed me, I willingly forgive*; but, as he has blasphemed the magistrate of the town, he shall be punished."

threats, and feel secure in her situation. The generous principle of friendly co-operation which subsists between her fleets and armies; that rivalry of affection and bravery, which so conspicuously manifests itself on all occasions for their mutual advantage, when acting together, and which reflects equal glory on the nation, offers the best security for preserving her foreign possessions, and the surest pledge for her domestic safety.

Her generals, admirals, officers, and men,

“Garnish’d and deck’d in modest compliment,”

leave to Buonaparte the full possession of his claim to vain boasting, who never suffer their pens to be sullied with untruths, and who would blush to speak a word in their own praise.

The burgher was committed for a short time to prison. He is said also to have pardoned a valet de chambre, who was prevailed upon to attempt to poison him; and, after having learned from him in what manner he had been bribed, contented himself with sending him prisoner to the fortress Spandau, whence he was released some years after.* These are traits of a *great mind*.

* The anecdotes of Frederick III., contained in this note, are taken from his *Memoirs*, by Dr. Towers.

The oppressor of the continent has now fully seen what an English force can accomplish, under the most unfavourable circumstances, on foreign ground: he has felt its strength again at Corunna, as he had before experienced it in Egypt, at Maida, Vimiera, and on the Ocean; and he can readily imagine what Great Britain could perform, were she attacked on her native soil.

The spirit of her sons would rise with indignation, as that of one man:—through the whole circuit of the Sister Isles, there is not an individual but would exclaim, whatever were the number of the tyrant's hordes,

“ We would not die in that man's company
That fears his fellowship to die with us !”

Buonaparte may aim at universal dominion; but he must know and feel, THAT, TRUE TO ITSELF, the British empire can never be subdued!!!

APPENDIX.

It is mentioned in page 17, that the death of General Duphot, brought about by the means of Joseph Buonaparte, was the cause of the revolution at Rome and the dethronement of the Pope. It was not, however, meant to imply, by the passage, that it was the intention that this officer (who was on the point of being married into the Buonaparte family) should fall the victim to that measure ; but that, in the planned disturbance, the death of a single Frenchman was the pretext by which French interference was to be justified, and which caused it to be carried into execution. General Duphot fell accidentally in the tumult.

A remark is made also in a note to page 147 to the following effect, and to which the reader is referred ; namely, that had it so happened that the Duchess d'Angouleme had remained in France, and in the tyrant's power, he would have endeavoured to have obtained her hand, in order to seat himself more firmly on the throne by that connexion, and create a greater interest in his favour ; and then the poor Josephine would have been abandoned, to make way for a more suitable partner of the imperial bed.

Addison, in his celebrated play, makes Cato say, when considering the proposal of the Numidian Prince to marry Marcia, that

“ A senator of Rome, while Rome surviv’d,

“ Would not have match’d his daughter with a *king*.”

Buonaparte, with the intent of placing his brother Jerome on a throne, conceives, with an equally haughty sentiment, that in his instance the *royal blood* of the Buonaparte dynasty would be disgraced by an humble alliance with a female citizen, born under a *republic*; who, though there *virtuously* educated, was still an unfit match for his august brother, for whom he had higher views: and he insulted humanity and the American nation, by Jerome’s compelled divorce from an estimable character.

If Buonaparte would act thus for his brother’s exaltation, what would he not effect to satisfy *his own ambitious pride*?

An anecdote, related in a very respectable periodical work, called “The Literary Panorama,” states what his restless and dissatisfied mind would aim at, (holding, as he does at present, “a barren sceptre in his gripe),” by his insulting overture to the sister of the Czar Alexander, with the view to grace the new dynasty, and the hope of transmitting the imperial crown to his own immediate descendants, and of being hailed

“father to a line of kings!” The Grand Duchess, Catherine, was not to be easily wooed, nor readily won. But to transcribe the account in the words of that publication, “the veracity of which account,” the author of the passage says, “is affirmed.” The French newspapers, at that time, hinted at some projected alliance; a liberty which they dared not to have taken, without the sanction of Buonaparte’s ministers.

“Napoleon is unquestionably sensible of the defect personally attaching to his want of issue; and he has certainly more than once entertained ideas of repudiating Madame Buonaparte, for the purpose of espousing a Princess of some royal house. It is a fact, that in one of the interviews on the river Niemen, in July, 1807, with the Emperor Alexander, he proposed to that Prince his marriage with the Grand Duchess, Catherine, then in the bloom of youth, being just nineteen years of age. It is equally true, that the Czar, her brother, did not dare to refuse compliance with the proposition of his Corsican conqueror. A letter was written to the Princess by him, stating the demand made, his own assent to it, and the necessity of her acquiescence. But the Grand Duchess instantly replied by the same messenger, and wrote to Alexander in the following terms:—‘Your imperial majesty may form or contract whatever engagements you think proper; but I am the grand-daughter of Catherine the II^d, who

gave me her name, and was my god-mother. I know what I owe to myself; and rather than submit to such an opprobrium, as to become the wife of Napoleon, I will die.'—In whatever way this refusal was communicated to Buonaparte, it terminated any further progress in the proposed marriage."

Such is the conduct of this man, who is equally an invader of public happiness and an intruder on domestic tranquillity; before whose outrageous will all obstacles must give way; "whose immeasurable ambition, inflamed and fanned by success, propels him, like a malignant and powerful dæmon, from kingdom to kingdom: and what calamities he cannot inflict with his own hand, he commits to others: he makes a whole world his charnel house. Even from the burning sands of Egypt to the frozen wastes of Lapland, all nature must bend before him, and every elevated family submit to his interference. In the conduct of Alexander, "how is the mighty fallen!"

It may not be deemed an incurious nor useless addition to this work, to recite the dignities which Buonaparte has heaped upon himself, his family, relatives, and adherents; and it will not be unobserved, that no one title, among all the number, attaches to the territory of France, except the imperial title.

Napoleone Buonaparte stands self-elected Emperor of France, King of Italy, and Grand Duke of Cleves

and Berg. His brothers : Joseph Buonaparte he has created King of Spain (*intended*) ; Louis, King of Holland ; and Jerome, King of Westphalia : Eugene Beauharnois, the son of Josephine La Pagerie, he has made Viceroy of Italy, and his infant daughter, Princess of Bologna ; Fesche, his uncle, Cardinal Archbishop of Lyons, and Primate of the Confederation of the Rhine ; and Murat, who married the usurper's sister, King of Naples !—His adherents ; Cambaceres, the late Consul, he has dignified with the title of Prince, Arch-chancellor of the Empire, and Duke of Parma ; Le Brun, late Consul also, Prince, Arch-treasurer, and Duke of Placenza ; Caulincourt he has appointed Great Chamberlain, and created him Duke of Vicenza ; Duroc, Great Marshal of the Palace, and Duke of Friene ; Talleyrand he has ennobled, as Prince of Benevento ; Bernadotte, Prince of Ponte Corvo ; and Berthier, Prince of Neufchatel.—In Dukedoms he has been most lavish : Marmont has been nominated by him Duke of Ragusa ; Junot, Duke of Abrantes ; Savary, Duke of Rovigo ; Soult, Duke of Dalmatia ; Mortier, Duke of Treviso ; Le Febvre, Duke of Dantzic ; Davoust, Duke of Auerstadt ; Moncey, Duke of Cornegliano ; Massena, Duke of Rivoli ; Augereau, Duke of Castiglione ; Lannes, Duke of Montebello ; Ney, Duke of Elchingen ; Bessieres, Duke of Istria ; Victor, Duke of Belluno ; Kellermann, Duke of Val-

my; and Arighi, Duke of Padua; Lacue he has distinguished as Count Sessac; and Clarke, as Count Hunenberg!!!

Such are the distinctions and rewards which Napoleone Buonaparte has been able to bestow on his family and adherents; the son of an obscure citizen of a miserable town in Corsica; who has become, by a series of crimes and victories, the astonishment of the world, and the arbiter of the continent of Europe.

THE END.

ERRATA.

In the dedication .. <i>for</i> Kingdoms <i>read</i> Kingdom.			
Page 26, note ..	— order.....	— orders.	
— 37, text	— execute.....	— execute it.	
— 63	— to bury ..	— of burying.	
— 90	— suggestion.....	— opinion.	
— 226	— General.....	— Lieutenant General.	
— 227	— departed —	— embarked.	

DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.

The binder is instructed to substitute *G for pages 93 to 100; both inclusive.

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